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April 28, 2021

Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee
Rep. Teresa Price, Chair
Sen. Cathy Breen, Chair
State House Station 115
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: LD 1086, "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade Customs Facilities at the Portland International Jetport and the Bangor International Airport To Promote International Tourism and Commerce."

Dear Senator Breen, Representative Price and Esteemed Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

In my role as the Policy Liaison for the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I am writing in support of LD 1086, "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade Customs Facilities at the Portland International Jetport and the Bangor International Airport To Promote International Tourism and Commerce".

In a recent analysis conducted by the financial website WalletHub and reported in *MaineBiz*, Bangor ranked number two (#2) amongst the best cities in the northeast United States. Rankings were based on business-friendliness of cities with 20 metrics in three main categories - business environment, business costs, and access to business resources. Bangor scored exceptionally well for access to business resources. In my opinion, the most critically important business resource for our region is Bangor International Airport (BGR). Bangor International Airport is not only an asset to the Greater Bangor Area, but serves as a vital piece of Maine's economic landscape.

By supporting the addition of an International Air Freight/Customs Bonded Warehouse at BGR, we are strengthening BGR to more strategically partner with other Maine ports (land and sea) to provide a robust and integrated cargo infrastructure for the state, making us more attractive to local and international importers and exporters. This will allow for expanding opportunities for Maine businesses and workers in the global marketplace

By diversifying the use of Bangor International Airport, Maine will show the world that you and your products can get here from there! You can work here. You can play here. You can base your business or create a business hub here. The funding proposed in LD 1086 would provide BGR with a shovel-ready site for development. Couple this with BGR's strategic location as the

closest airport to Europe and as the first stop in and last stop out on the Great Circle Route and BGR quickly rises to the forefront as the premier destination for the importing and export of goods for Maine and the world, flight refueling, and as a gateway to travel in North America.

On behalf of the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, we appreciate your efforts and look forward to seeing this project come to fruition.

Sincerely,

Sarah C. Dubay

Sarah Dubay
Policy Liaison
Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce