

March 17, 2021

LD 144 - An Act To Fund Capital Improvements to Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions To Bolster Maine's Future Workforce

In Support of LD 144

Good afternoon,

I would like to provide my support of LD 144 – An Act To Fund Capital Improvements to Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions To Bolster Maine’s Future Workforce.

Region Two School of Applied Technology in Houlton has excelled over the past decade in incorporating national standards for each of our CTE programs enabling our students a distinct advantage to seek either direct employment within their industry level trained area or continued education. The one area we are lacking is up-to-date industry level equipment that our completing students would utilize when they seek regional employment. One example of this is our Forestry program. Our students are training on equipment purchased over 20 years ago as our CTE Region cannot afford the cost of purchasing an up-to-date forwarder or skidder that these students will use in our region/state. If passed this legislative fund will enable our CTE Region to update our Forestry equipment and other program equipment items that are desperately need updating.

As you know that under our CTE EPS funding formula, there is no equipment allotment which brings us to you today to seek alternate funding to fulfill this CTE need.

Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee!

Yours in education,

David Keaton, Director
Region Two School of Applied Technology