



Manufacturers Association of Maine

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On Behalf of the Manufacturers Association of Maine

In Support of

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

March 17, 2021

Good morning Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. My name is Jessica Laliberte. I am the policy relations manager for the Manufacturers Association of Maine. MAME represents 400 members from aerospace, metal, paper, marine/boat building, semiconductor, wood, textile, aquaculture, biotech, medical device, electronics, RF and wireless communications, plastics, composites and bioplastics, studio and food and beverage manufacturing. Our members employ 29,000 people here in Maine.

We are pleased to offer our support for **LD 144** *An Act To Fund Capital Improvements to Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions To Bolster Maine's Future Workforce*. MAME strongly believes investment in career and technical education is an investment in our economy. CTE programs are critical to preparing a well-educated and skilled workforce. We all know Maine's work force is aging out and we are facing challenges filling jobs. CTE provide students real-life, hands-on training. Graduates of CTE programs have industry certifications upon graduation and transition well into the workforce. Strong and vibrant career and technical education programs statewide are a critical solution to our workforce challenge.

The Manufacturers Association of Maine thanks Speaker Fecteau for this bill and urges the committee to unanimously vote ought to pass. Thank you for your consideration.