

Committee on Housing and Economic Development  
Testimony of Kate Dickerson, Maine Discovery Museum

**In Support of**  
**LD 1643, an Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center**

April 9, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and esteemed members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is Kate Dickerson, and I'm the Executive Director of the Maine Discovery Museum as well a member of the Maine Innovation Economy Advisory Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1643, an Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center.

Maine Discovery Museum's (MDM) mission is to help people of all ages to discover the world around them through creative exploration and science. A key feature MDM's work is to focus on the sciences critical to Maine, and to feature the people and organizations who work in these areas. Every day, in our museum and via our external programs like Science Around ME and the Maine Science Festival, we see Mainers of all ages inspired by Maine science and the organizations who do it. And not just in the "how cool is this" way (which is great!), but also via the impact that Maine science is having on our world, pride of place because of that, and by realizing the many potential career paths that life sciences provide.

Life sciences is one of Maine's most robust sectors, with companies and organizations involved in research & development, commercialization, building small businesses, and sustaining large, multi-national organizations. Life sciences is also an area that we find our patrons most engaged with, whether that's hearing about an engineer's passion for bioengineering in a Maine Science Podcast episode<sup>1</sup> or a program like "Testing for the Tiniest" where patrons learn how bioscientists investigate pathogens, viruses, and bacteria.

In addition to providing much needed infrastructure, the Maine Life Science Innovation Center will enable Maine to provide the life science industry a central, cohesive infrastructure that will help Maine as a whole. As the head of an organization who brings Maine science to the public, I enthusiastically support LD 1643 and urge you to also vote to support the creation of the Maine Life Science Innovation Center.

Sincerely,



Kate Dickerson  
Executive Director  
Maine Discovery Museum  
Founder, Maine Science Festival

<sup>1</sup> <https://maine-science-podcast.simplecast.com/episodes/caitlin-howell>