



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC  
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



HEATHER JOHNSON  
COMMISSIONER

**Testimony Of: Kate Foye**  
**LD 1421**

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development To Update Its Current Priorities under the Northern Border Regional Commission's Allowable Grant Requests To Include Support of Population Growth Strategies around the State in Concert with the State's 10-year Economic Development Strategy**

April 20, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the IDEA Committee, my name is Kate Foye and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Economic and Community Development. I would like to provide some information on LD 1421.

Early in 2021, the State of Maine updated the state priorities for the Northern Border Regional Commission to be in alignment with Maine's Economic Development Strategy.

These priorities are now reflected in the [2021 Application Manual for the State Economic & Infrastructure Development Program](#). On page 13 of this manual, it shows the new Maine priorities, which include Workforce Development/Attraction as a Maine priority. Specifically, one of the four priorities are: "Workforce. Project will support the creation, retention or attraction of quality jobs; or project will attract talent/workforce to areas of Maine that need it." A project will be scored higher if it "clearly demonstrates commitment to job creation with evidence that jobs will be created or retained as a direct result of the investment; or project will attract new workers to areas of Maine and industries that need more workers (with evidence of this need)."

The NBRC Maine priorities have already been revised to be in direct alignment with Maine's Economic Development Strategy, and Workforce Attraction is a prominent priority for Maine NBRC funding.

I would be happy to provide you with any additional information at the work session.