
Carl L. Sheline
Mayor

January 30, 2024

Senator Nangle, Chair
Representative Stover, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

RE: LD 2167, An Act to Develop Maine's Economy and Strengthen Its Workforce by Establishing an Office of New Americans

Dear Sen. Nangle, Rep. Stover and members of the State and Local Government Committee:

As the mayor of Lewiston, I would like to voice my support for LD 2167, “An Act to Develop Maine's Economy and Strengthen Its Workforce by Establishing an Office of New Americans”.

Lewiston has been engaged in helping immigrants and refugees integrate into our local workforce for decades. Improving how Maine introduces and integrates new Americans into its communities is not only economically beneficial but a massive stride toward building a diverse and resilient future for our state.

Governor Mill’s proposal—establishing the ONA to ensure that every person can contribute to building a strong and inclusive economy—is a key solution to workforce challenges we face.

The Legislature should support economic and civic integration of immigrants in Maine by passing LD 2167. Cities like Lewiston are counting on you.

I appreciate the committee’s time.

Sincerely,

Carl L. Sheline