

October 21, 2021

To: Tax Expenditure Working Group

Good Morning, Senator Libby, Representative Terry and Members of the Tax Expenditure Working Group.

I apologize that I could not be here in person to deliver comments on behalf of the Maine State Chamber, however, I have a prior commitment out of town that could not be changed so I will forward our comments in writing.

Let me say overall, we feel very confident that the tax incentives/programs Maine has available are in fact working the way they were intended to. That is, these programs help and keep Maine businesses competitive in the global marketplace by attracting capital investment to Maine and creating and retaining Maine jobs. We firmly believe this. We also believe that Maine's tax incentives are modest and if Maine did not have what it has available to businesses, today, it would make us less competitive overall.

These programs *are* in fact working because they are being *used*. We also believe because of this these programs are self-regulating. The investment is made *then* the company gets the benefit. As designed Maine's incentives and programs only benefit companies that have **already made** the investments or created new jobs. This is unlike other states that often times offer incentives up front before the actual investments are made. Lastly, we do support the continued solicitation of comments from the public/business community. We feel this is absolutely important and necessary.

Ultimately, it is up to the Legislature to decide whether to continue these reviews and whether the scope of the reviews should be changed in some capacity. As always, we are available to provide any more feedback this group would like. I will be available in the future for any further feedback the Committee would like to have.

Sincerely,

Linda Caprara
Senior Government Affairs Specialist
Maine State Chamber of Commerce