

**Testimony of Joan Ferrini-Mundy, University of Maine System Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation and University of Maine President, In Support of LD 1733, *An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds* – June 9, 2021**

Good afternoon, Senator Deen, Representative DiPasquale, District 1, \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED]

members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. My name is Joan Ferrini-Mundy. I am the University of Maine System's Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation and president of the

state's only public research university, the University of Maine, and its \_\_\_\_\_

Given this, our System proposes to use these American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to build critical infrastructure for Maine's economy, including by investing in the public university centers and laboratories that directly support the state's companies and strengthen our heritage industries and

dependent rural communities. Coupled with each of these planned capital projects is an expansion of paid internship and other high-impact work



constructed at UMaine

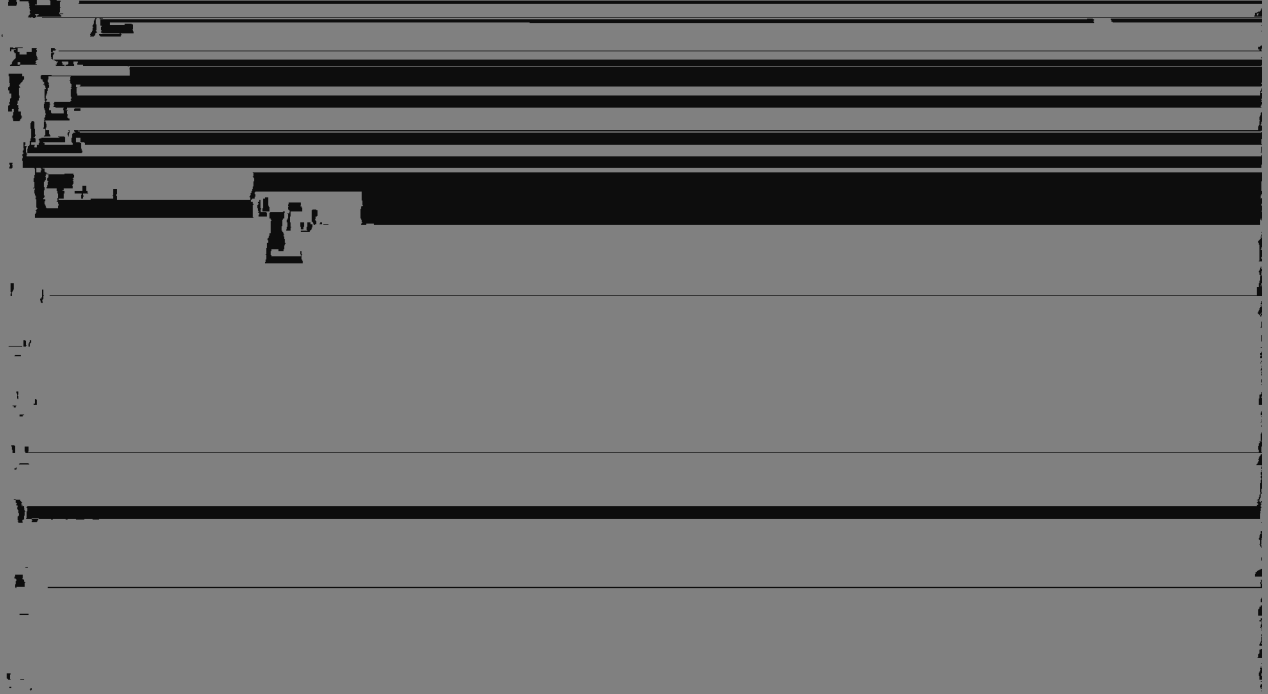
Universities  
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using ARPA funds. Co-

located with our Advanced Structures and Composites Center, GEM will be a world-class research and educational facility where the next generation manufacturing and engineering workforce will be developed through hands-on research learning in partnership with local companies. The project has attracted strong interest, and likely significant investment toward its \$72 million total cost, from the U.S. Department of Defense.

UMS ARPA funds will also address gaps in Maine's food entrepreneurship ecosystem, building food testing/quality services labs and shared-use kitchens at UMaine to serve small food-based businesses and ensure

Mainers have reliable access to healthy and safe food for all.



Of course, our state's greatest natural resource is its people. As you well know, the pandemic has exacerbated Maine's lack of access to affordable, high quality childcare that is essential to the development of our children

and their parents' ability to participate fully in the workforce. Through its Sweatt-Winter Child Care and Early Education Center, for four decades the University of Maine at Farmington has provided Franklin County families nationally accredited early learning while preparing the state's future early

maximize and make more... immediate the...

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I would additionally note that our universities, and especially UMaine, see tremendous synergy between our strengths, Maine's opportunities and other components of the Administration's Jobs & Recovery plan. We look forward to collaborating with the beneficiaries of competitive innovation funding made available through the Maine Technology Institute, in-part by utilizing the university facilities and talent I discussed with you today. As I shared with you earlier this session, despite it being the ultimately driver of

economic growth, Maine's total R&D expenditures...

Thank you and I look forward to answering your questions.