

Maine State Legislature Hearing “How To” Guide

Bill Title and Information:

LD 506, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue For Research and Development and Commercialization

- Presented by Senator Teresa Pierce of Cumberland
- Cosponsored by Speaker Fecteau of Biddeford; Senators: Bennett of Oxford, President Daughtry of Cumberland, Grohoski of Hancock; Representatives: Cloutier of Lewiston, Strout of Harrington

Hearing Information:

Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Committee chairs: Senator Peggy Rotundo and Representative Drew Gattine

Wednesday, April 9, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

State House, Room 228

Preparing Testimony:

Testimony can be delivered in person (most impactful), remotely via zoom, or in writing. For in-person and zoom testimony you will have **no more than three minutes** to speak. If you plan to testify remotely by Zoom, you must be present during the hearing and be available and on the call when the bill discussion takes place.

Please let us know if you are planning to testify in person or if you have any questions.

We suggest the following steps to laying out your testimony:

Introduction:

- Begin by addressing the committee chairs and members of the committee.
- Introduce yourself and, if applicable, the organization you represent or hometown.

Statement of Position:

- Clearly state whether you support, oppose, or are neutral on the bill.

Weave Personal Experiences and Points of View into Five Content Themes:

1. Maine must invest urgently to catch up with national R&D standards.
2. Public R&D investments deliver exceptional returns for taxpayers.
3. LD 506 advances the Maine Innovation Economy Action Plan to create 10,000 innovation jobs by 2030.

4. Voters strongly support R&D investments – and another investment now makes strategic sense.
5. The bond grows Maine’s life sciences and innovation sectors – fueling statewide resilience.

Sample Testimony Format and Intro

Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
Testimony of [Name + Organization]

In Support of LD 506

LD 506, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue For Research and Development and Commercialization

April 9, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and esteemed members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

My name is [Name]. I am from [Town or Organization] and am honored to testify in support of LD 506...

Testifying in Person

- Print out at least 20 copies to distribute to the committee members; the committee clerk will assist you.
- Arrive early to sign in and familiarize yourself with the setting.
- The bill sponsor presents first, followed by cosponsors.
- Public testimony is then invited, typically starting with supporters, followed by opponents, and then neutral parties.
- When called, approach the podium and sign in.
- Address the committee and present your testimony in 3-minutes.
- Be prepared to answer questions from the committee.
- If you don’t know the answer to a question, that’s okay – just tell them that you don’t know but will get back to them.

Submitting Written Testimony Online

- You may simply submit written testimony for the hearing without intending to testify in person or via Zoom. To do so, visit the [Maine Legislature’s Testimony Submission page](#).

- Select the appropriate hearing type, committee, date, and bill.
- Upload your testimony or enter it directly into the provided field.
- Complete the form with your personal information and submit.

Testifying via Zoom

- If you wish to testify via Zoom, go through the steps noted above for submitting written testimony and be sure to click the box for “I would like to present over Zoom”
- After you sign up, you will receive a Zoom link from the committee clerk
- If you have not received a Zoom link by the morning of the hearing, reach out to the clerk at AFA@legislature.maine.gov to ask for the link.

Testimony Talking Points

Bottom Line Message: LD 506 is a smart investment to close Maine’s R&D gap, deliver extraordinary economic returns, and build a thriving innovation economy. Every dollar invested will create new jobs, businesses, and opportunities that benefit Maine families and communities.

Top 5 Points in Support of LD 506 (\$50M R&D Bond)

1. Maine must invest urgently to catch up with national R&D standards.

- Maine ranks 37th in total R&D funding among U.S. states (Maine Economic Improvement Fund Report, 2024).
- Maine invests about 1.1% of its gross state product in R&D, compared to the national average of 3.6% and 5.7% by other New England states (Maine Economic Improvement Fund Report, 2024).
- Neighboring states like Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts invest dramatically more, leading to stronger innovation economies and higher wages.

2. Public R&D investments deliver exceptional returns for taxpayers.

- A \$45 million R&D bond approved by Maine voters in 2017 generated 5,350 jobs and \$1.4 billion in economic activity — a 31x return on investment (Maine Technology Institute data).
- Every \$1 of public R&D investment typically produces \$2 to \$5 in long-term economic growth (National Bureau of Economic Research).
- Investing in R&D directly boosts jobs, new business creation, educational opportunities, and tax revenue for Maine communities.

3. LD 506 advances the Maine Innovation Economy Action Plan to create 10,000 innovation jobs by 2030.

- The 2023 Action Plan calls for doubling Maine’s R&D investment to strengthen life sciences, clean energy, advanced manufacturing, forestry innovation, and marine technology.
- LD 506 provides a critical down payment on this vision, accelerating commercialization, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and research capacity.

4. Voters strongly support R&D investments — and another investment now makes strategic sense.

- In 2024, nearly 60% of Maine voters approved a \$30 million R&D bond, showing strong bipartisan support (Maine Morning Star, 2024).
- Voter support signals a mandate to build momentum, not pause progress.
- Passing LD 506 in 2025 ensures Maine can capitalize on existing public enthusiasm, sustain innovation growth, and leverage matching federal and private dollars.

5. The bond grows Maine’s life sciences and innovation sectors — fueling statewide resilience.

- Maine’s life sciences sector generates \$2.6 billion annually in economic impact and supports 9,540 jobs across 484 organizations (BioMaine, 2023 Industry Impact Report).
- Bond funds will also strengthen renewable energy research, environmental innovation, and marine science — advancing Maine’s climate, health, and sustainability goals.
- Supporting these fast-growing sectors is key to building a more diverse, resilient economy for Maine.