

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

Ms. J. Janelle George
Acting Director
Office of Community Services – Administration for Children and Families
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
330 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. George:

We write in support of the application submitted by Coastal Enterprises, Inc., (CEI) for funding through the Office of Community Services' (OCS) Community Economic Development Projects Program. Through its proposal, CEI seeks to implement the New Maine Manufacturing Project (NewME), an innovative financing and workforce partnership to support the growth of manufacturing in Maine.

Headquartered in Brunswick, Maine, CEI is a private nonprofit Community Development Corporation and Community Development Financial Institution that, for more than forty years, has helped build and maintain public-private partnerships to foster economic development and job creation throughout the state. If funded, CEI will work with Junora LTD, a growing manufacturing company located in Biddeford, as part of the NewME partnership to provide specialized job training and support for low-income individuals in the region.

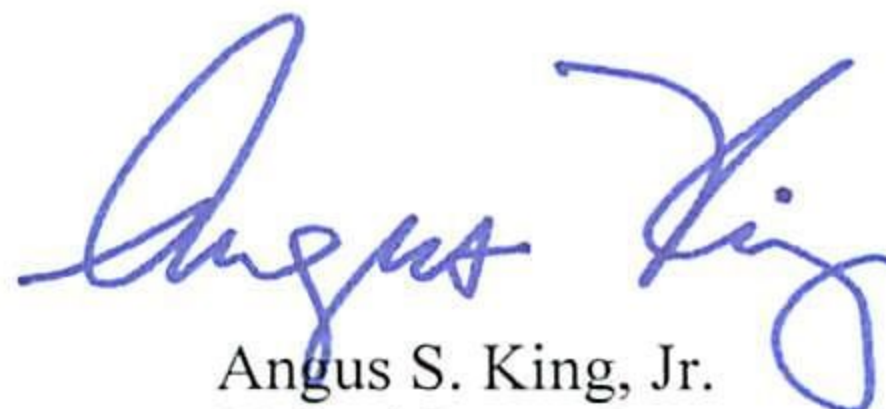
Once a thriving mill town, Biddeford was a global center for textile manufacturing through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Unfortunately, resulting from changing markets and the decline of the industry, the last mill closed in 2009 and manufacturing jobs in the area decreased drastically. Together with workforce partners in the state, CEI proposes to work with Junora to support the creation of 30 full-time, skilled manufacturing jobs, with low-income individuals filling a majority of the new positions. By integrating workforce training and supportive services, the NewME partnership will help strengthen ongoing revitalization efforts in Biddeford and the future of Maine's economy.

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of CEI and Maine's manufacturing sector. We encourage your careful review of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when a final decision is made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator