



PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY  
IN SUPPORT OF LD 1053

**An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Stimulate  
Investment in Innovation by Maine Businesses To Produce  
Nationally and Globally Competitive Products and Services**

June 4, 2015

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS  
TESTIMONY Submitted by LuAnn Ballesteros, Director of Government Relations, The Jackson  
Laboratory.

Senator Hamper; Representatives Rotundo and members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, my name is LuAnn Ballesteros and I am the Director of Government Relations at The Jackson Laboratory. I am here today to speak in support of LD 1053, an important measure that will infuse capital into the Maine Technology Asset Fund for the first time in 5 years.

The Maine Technology Asset Fund (MTAF) is a competitive award program funded by Maine State bond proceeds from two bonds passed by voters in 2007 and 2010. MTAF awards have been used to fund capital and related expenditures to support research, development and commercialization of products, leading to significant economic benefits for Maine.

The establishment of MTAF in 2007 and the public/private partnerships those funds encouraged, has effectively increased activity in the technology based sectors of the Maine economy. The fund provided critical capital investment to JAX projects in 2008, 2009 and 2011. Three grants totaling nearly \$8 million were combined with more than \$11 million in matching funds, enabling the construction of a new Importation/Isolation facility, renovations to expand space for Reproductive Sciences and the establishment of a cutting-edge Gene Sequencing Service on the Lab's Bar Harbor campus.

Those investments expanded the Laboratory's research capacity and technology transfer pipeline, increased market share for JAX Mice & Services and created good jobs with higher than average wages and benefits.

- In 2007, JAX operating budget was \$142 million - in 2014 JAX operating budget was \$202 million.
  - A 42% increase in the amount of money coming into Maine from outside sources.
- In 2007 JAX employed 1,196 individuals – the Lab currently employee 1454 individuals
  - 258 new jobs

In 2014 JAX paid \$97 million dollars in salaries and benefits to Maine employees, spent \$14 million with 650 Maine vendors. The total state and local tax and fee revenue traceable to JAX-initiated economic activity has been estimated by economists to be nearly \$18 million.

The Maine Technology Institute has played a key role in the strategy to grow the state's economy, administering competitive grants from the Maine Technology Asset Fund. Steady, sustained R & D investment within public and private institutions is the proven model for creating an innovation economy. Access to matching funds fosters new collaborations between private industry, non-profit research institutions and higher education - leading to the creation of new jobs, new products and the growth of great companies that have or will, achieve world-leading status for innovation.

LD 1053 provides an opportunity to recommit to this strategy and I urge your support of this important bond proposal. Thank you for considering the testimony of The Jackson Laboratory. I would be happy to respond to any questions today and can be reached by telephone at 288-6305 or by e-mail at [luann.ballesteros@jax.org](mailto:luann.ballesteros@jax.org) .