

## GOVERNOR JANET MILLS

# INVESTING IN MAINE'S FUTURE: 2019 BOND PACKAGE PROPOSAL

This \$239 million bond package proposes targeted, responsible investments across four key areas to grow our economy and address the critical challenges our state faces.

**\$50M**

### STRENGTHENING MAINE'S ECONOMY

The strength of our economy depends in part on investing in the tools that both will enable people to stay in Maine and attract people to live and work in Maine. That is why the first pillar of this bond proposal invests a total of \$50 million in expanding broadband across the state, in spurring research and development, and in bolstering fishing and farming infrastructure to support these growing industries.

**\$19M**

### DEVELOPING OUR WORKFORCE

We know that one of the biggest challenges facing Maine is developing a robust, skilled workforce to fill available jobs. That is why the second pillar of this bond proposal invests a total of \$19 million to expand education and training in the trades, to bolster career and technical education, and to increase access to quality child care services, the lack of which is holding many people back from entering the workforce.

**\$65M**

### SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

From our forests to our farms and fisheries, our economy and our environment are inextricably linked. That is why the third pillar of this bond proposal invests \$65 million to clean up pollution and improve wastewater treatment, to protect working waterfronts and forests, and shepherd in renewable energy projects at the municipal level in an effort to combat climate change.

**\$105M**

### REPAIRING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

A strong economy is dependent in part on safe roads and reliable transportation infrastructure. That is why the fourth pillar of this bond proposal invests a total of \$105 million for improvement to roads, bridges, ports, rail, and air transportation, as well as restoration of a commercial fishing wharf to support both research in the Gulf of Maine and long-term marine-based job creation.

# STRENGTHENING MAINE'S ECONOMY

\$50M

## \$30M BROADBAND



Broadband is critical infrastructure at the core of a robust, 21st century economy, but Maine has significant gaps in access statewide. Approximately 83,000 households currently do not have access to broadband with key areas of the state missing the infrastructure they need to maintain their current population, attract new workers and jobs, and support existing industries including farms, fisheries and forestry. **This proposal:**

- creates the opportunity for more areas to be equipped with high-speed internet access and by extension, access to the global economy, by allowing ConnectME to go beyond funding small projects on a few roads at a time.
- allows businesses and residents to utilize technology to improve their opportunities for financial growth and improve access to education, health care and entertainment.

## \$15M INNOVATION SUPPORT



Research and development (R&D) spending is a leading indicator of the level of innovation in an economy, and, ultimately, is the driver of most economic growth. In 2016, Maine spent less than 1 percent of GDP on R&D (\$483 million) and the most recent “Measures of Growth” report from the Maine Development Foundation shows Maine lags the nation in its spending on research and development. Sustained public and private investments are key to moving the needle. **This proposal:**

- boosts our economy by fostering increased private sector investments in research and development and allowing small businesses to scale-test concepts into commercially viable products and services.
- supports shared resources like labs and ecosystem development to ensure that a system of supports exists to foster greater growth for sector development.

## \$5M FISHING AND FARMING INFRASTRUCTURE



Fishing and farming are at the core of our state's economy. Commercial fishing contributes nearly \$2 billion to our economy annually and supports over 16,000 harvester jobs and another 5,500 jobs in the dealer/processor sector. Farming contributes nearly \$3.8 billion in statewide sales and supports over 24,000 jobs statewide. Meanwhile, agriculture is drawing young farming families to Maine. According to the USDA 2012 Census, the number of farmers aged 34 and younger grew by nearly 40 percent in the five years from 2007 to 2012. **This proposal:**

- invests in these growing industries by helping provide more processing capability in order to enable businesses and organizations to create and preserve jobs, support the development of Maine-made products, and attract more young people to live and work in Maine.

# DEVELOPING OUR WORKFORCE

\$19M

## \$4M WORKFORCE TRAINING



According to one of the country's leading bond agencies, Fitch Ratings, by 2026, Maine will have the highest percentage of people 65 and older in the country. Their expected exit from the workforce is a serious constraint to workforce growth, to GDP, to personal income, and to other measures of economic growth. **This proposal:**

- invests in education and training for trade's people, manufacturing technicians, welders, fabricators, basic electrical technicians, and general laborers in Maine.
- allows the Community College System to invest in a multi-trade, flexible training center to create a work-ready labor force.
- allows the Community College System to invest in two mobile welding laboratories, which will increase welding training by 200 percent statewide.

## \$5M CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Building on Governor Mills' work as Attorney General to expand access to career and technical education, which helps provide Maine students with credentials of value that will lead to good-paying jobs in rewarding careers, **this proposal:**

- invests in career educational technical centers to train high school students in emerging and traditional technical fields to support the innovation economy.

## \$5M CHILDCARE FACILITIES



Maine parents seeking a technical education to succeed in new and changing industries need access to reliable, affordable childcare, the lack of which often is a significant barrier to them attaining a degree and entering the workforce. **This proposal:**

- provides funds for the expansion of existing, or the construction of new, quality child care facilities statewide.

Funding will be distributed as grants or low-interest loans to licensed child care providers rated on the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) and new facilities will be focused on serving children under age six and include at least 40 percent low income children (at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level).

The Department of Economic and Community Development will administer the funds in partnership with the Finance Authority of Maine and will consult with the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Education on the awards.

## \$5M DVEM BASE FACILITIES WORK



**This proposal** also provides funding for the Department of Veterans and Emergency Management to restore and modernize Maine National Guard facilities in Westbrook, Augusta and Lewiston so that they can be mission-ready.

# SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY AND PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

\$65M

## \$30M LMF (OVER 3 YEARS)

Over the past thirty years, the Land for Maine's Future Program has protected more than 1,200 miles of shore lands and over 570,000 acres of conservation and recreation lands.

### **This proposal:**

- provides funding to protect community projects, forests, water access, recreational sites, working water front and working farms. Projects will be matched 4 to 1 with private and/or federal funding.

## \$10M MUNICIPAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS

Public facilities are major consumers of energy and emitters of carbon dioxide.

### **This proposal:**

- creates a grant through Efficiency Maine Trust aimed at supporting the efforts of municipalities to adopt more efficient heating technology and to reduce their carbon footprint.

## \$20M HAZMAT CLEANUP AND DRINKING WATER TREATMENT

There are 251 active sites under investigation or remediation by Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP), and 168 sites requiring long-term operations and maintenance, for an estimated cost of \$500 million. Additionally, roughly 50 new sites are discovered each year, and cleanup costs exceed available funds. Recent discoveries of PFAS could rapidly expand the number of sites DEP is unable to cleanup due to lack of funding. According to EPA Brownfields Program each public dollar (\$1) expended on remediation attracts about \$18 from private developers because the work quantifies costs to developers so that they can make informed business decisions and 8.6 jobs are created per \$100,000 of remediation funds expended. **This proposal:**

- provides funding for wastewater treatment facility planning and construction grants and small community grants to help replace malfunctioning septic systems that are polluting waters of the state or causing public nuisance.

Bond funds will be used alongside other funding sources to make infrastructure projects more affordable and are not the sole source of funding for projects.

## \$5M LOW-INTEREST ENERGY LOANS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Maine is the most heating oil dependent state in the country. In fact, just under 70 percent of Maine homeowners rely on oil for their heating needs. **This proposal:**

- provides \$5 million to capitalize the Heating Fuels Efficiency and Weatherization Fund via the Efficiency Maine Trust to provide low interest loans for clean energy projects including heat pumps for residential homeowners in Maine.

# REPAIRING TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

\$105M

\$105 M IN NOVEMBER, 2019



Unsafe roads pose a threat to Maine people, prevent our businesses from reaching markets both close to home and nationwide, and represent a failure to address the most basic responsibility of state government. The American Society of Civil Engineers graded Maine's infrastructure a "C-", ranking Maine's roads even lower at a "D". **This proposal:**

- provides \$80 million to construct, reconstruct or rehabilitate state roads, highways, and bridges.
- provides \$20 million for ports, rail, and air facilities or equipment that preserve public safety or otherwise have demonstrated high transportation economic value including property acquisition.
- provides \$4 million for culverts and stream crossings and matches local funding for the upgrade of municipal culverts at stream crossings in order to improve fish and wildlife habitats and increase community safety.
- provides \$1 million for the Gulf of Maine Research Institute Bulkhead to protect working waterfronts and further restoration of a commercial fishing wharf to support both research in the Gulf of Maine and long-term marine-based job development.
- will draw an estimated \$137 million in matching federal and other funds.

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