

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
MAINE

154 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344

Web Site: <http://snowe.senate.gov>

DEPUTY WHIP

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND
COAST GUARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

April 30, 2009

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, Chairman
The Honorable Susan M. Collins, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
133 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6029

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
128 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510-6025

Dear Senators Durbin, Collins, Inouye, and Cochran:

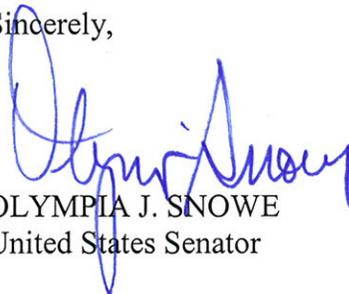
I am writing to respectfully request your support for the funding of an attached item in the Fiscal Year 2010 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill.

I certify that neither I nor any of my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the FY2010 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

I appreciate your serious consideration of these funding requests. On the following pages I have provided the answers to your specific questions about the project.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my staff with any further questions.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator

AUBURN
TWO GREAT FALLS PLAZA
SUITE 7B
AUBURN, ME 04210
(207) 786-2451

AUGUSTA
40 WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 408C
AUGUSTA, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

BANGOR
ONE CUMBERLAND PLACE, SUITE 306
BANGOR, ME 04401
(207) 945-0432

BIDDEFORD
227 MAIN STREET
BIDDEFORD, ME 04005
(207) 282-4144

PORTLAND
3 CANAL PLAZA, SUITE 601
PORTLAND, ME 04101
(207) 874-0883
MAINE RELAY SERVICE
TDD 1-955-3323

PRESQUE ISLE
169 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 3
PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

FUNDING REQUEST #1

(1) Name and Phone Number of Sponsoring Senator's Staff Contact(s):

Arran Haynes

(2) Relevant Federal Department or Agency and Account:

Small Business Administration, Salaries and Expenses.

(3) Project Name:

Forest Bioproducts Entrepreneurship in Maine

(4) Name of Organization/Group/Entity Involved in Seeking the Requested Funding:

Organization:

University of Maine
5703 Alumni Hall
Orono, ME 04468-5703

Organizational Contact:

Jason Harkins, Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship
Darrell Donahue, Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering

(5) Description and Justification of Project:

Advances at the University of Maine in the science of producing bioproducts and composites from woody biomass have created intellectual property (IP) but these advances have not led to commercialization. In order to grow the Maine economy and to enhance the technology transfer of university IP, the University will take advantage of Maine's comparative advantage in forest products processing and work to develop competent venture teams that leverage the different skills and abilities of the university community.

The primary objective is to explore and develop a method for supporting technology transfer of university IP through venture team development, skill training, and mentoring. Specifically, they plan to evaluate the viability of forest bioproducts entrepreneurship in Maine and assess the requirements for developing a forest bioproducts cluster leveraging the existing forest products cluster. Secondly, they aim to develop a method for encouraging entrepreneurial ventures that use the bioproducts and composites as a core of production.

The requested \$1,000,000 would be spent as follows:

- \$875,000 for labor directed to entrepreneurial skill training and research into a woody biomass industrial cluster;
- \$125,000 for materials, technology, etc.

The program is focused on entrepreneurship and developing successful venture clusters, with a goal of generating viable ventures that are competitive over the term of the research. UMaine estimates that any viable ventures started based on this research will generate significant additional employment opportunities in Maine. At the University, the requested funding will create/sustain 2 faculty positions, 1 support/admin position, and 2 graduate students.

(6) Amount of funding being requested in FY2010:

\$1,000,000

(7) Minimum amount of FY2010 funding needed to begin, or sustain, this project, in the event the full amount requested cannot be approved:

The minimum funding necessary to establish a sustainable three year program is \$500,000 for FY2010. UMaine's initial year estimate of \$1 million reflects the additional costs associated with program start-up. Should this amount not be made available in FY2010, the planned funding profiles for follow on years will be adjusted accordingly.

(8) Total amount of funding needed to complete the project: For multi-year projects, please provide an annual breakdown of funding needed in future years.

\$2.5 million over three years (\$1m in FY2010, \$1m in FY2011, and \$0.5 in FY 2012)

(9) Federal funding history and source(s):

The project has NOT received any federal appropriation funding in the past.

(10) Was a similar request submitted for FY2009 or any prior years?

No.

(11) Is this project included in the President's FY2010 budget request?

No.

(12) Is this request being submitted to any other Appropriations subcommittees?

No.

- (13) What (if any) are the sources and amounts of matching funds or contributions of financial partners who support the project?**

The University will be seeking other avenues of private and public funding.

- (14) (a) Which Federal department or agency (if successful) will oversee use of the funds for this project?**

Small Business Administration.

- (b) Does that department, agency, or entity support the project?**

A copy of the project white paper has been forwarded to Ms. Karen Mills, SBA Administrator, via DC-based SBA staff.

- (15) What other organizations might be expected to support this request? What other organizations might be expected to oppose this request? Why?**

The University is working to gather letters of endorsement from the President of the Maine State Senate, the State Office of Innovation, and the Maine Technology Institute.

- (16) If the requested project is proposed to be included in the District of Columbia title to be conducted in the District of Columbia, has the District of Columbia Government endorsed the project?**

N/A.

- (17) Are you requesting inclusion of specific language in the bill or report?**

No.