

January 13, 2009

**RE: L.D. 1665, "An Act to Prevent the Spread of H1N1"**

Dear Senator Jackson:

This letter is in response to your e-mail to Walt Elish concerning correspondence from Patti Crooks, General Manager of the Aroostook Centre Mall, referencing the discussion at the LEAD Board of Directors meeting on January 12, 2010. Please know that our major concern is the negative impact on business and economic progress that this proposed legislation will have, not who sponsored or co-sponsored the proposed legislation. During the LEAD Board meeting, Peter Gore, Maine State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, provided an overview of bills scheduled for the second session of the Maine 124<sup>th</sup> Legislature. During his discussion, he highlighted the importance of opposing L.D. 1665 because of its impact on business. He informed us of the public hearing on Thursday, January 14, 1:00 p.m. at the Labor Committee, Room 220, and urged our participation, either to testify in person or to write or call our legislators as soon as possible to urge them to oppose the bill. It was also noted that you are the Senate Chair of the Labor Committee and a co-sponsor of the L.D. 1665. Several directors stated that they had already contacted you, via email, and requested that you not support this bill and work to defeat its passage.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of *LEADers Encouraging Aroostook Development*, I urge you to reverse your decision of support for this proposed legislation, and move forward with competitive advantages that help us grow our region by creating and retaining jobs and opportunities, not burdening existing businesses with an unnecessary mandatory paid sick leave policy. We understand passage of L.D. 1665 will make Maine the first state in the nation to impose this type burden on its businesses. Doing so will significantly increase the costs of doing business for many of our businesses that are already struggling in the midst of this recession.

Sincerely,



Virginia R. Joles, President  
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cc: Walt Elish, Aroostook Partnership for Progress

**Leaders Encouraging Aroostook Development** (LEAD), a non-profit corporation comprised of approximately one hundred business and community members, was established in 1986 for the purpose of fostering and encouraging the balanced development of Aroostook County. This group of volunteers focuses on the economy, jobs, image, partnerships, promoting new and existing businesses, natural resources, and legislation. Today, LEAD is proud to celebrate over two decades of achievement with the continued support of individuals and businesses committing their valuable time to improve the future of Aroostook County.