

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 21, 2016

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
United States Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

We are writing to express our support for the application submitted by Coastal Counties Workforce (CCWI) and Educate Maine for a U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) TechHire Partnership grant. The proposal aims to help TechHire Maine expand and enhance education and job training for workers in Maine's information technology (IT) industry.

Over the past several decades, Maine's economy has undergone a transformation as production-based jobs make up a smaller share of the jobs mix. Just in the last few years, our state has seen the closures of five paper mills that have resulted in significant job losses.

In an economy increasingly fueled by IT-related jobs, many workers today need post-secondary education to obtain employment. TechHire Maine's proposal would help Maine students prepare for today's competitive job market with targeted training in IT sectors.

CCWI, the Workforce Investment Board for six Maine counties, is partnering with Educate Maine, a business-led education and workforce advocacy organization, to launch the TechHire Maine initiative. The TechHire Maine initiative would provide training resources for Maine employers who seek qualified applicants for skilled IT-related occupations. The initiative would be comprised of IT employers, educational institutions, and IT stakeholders such as Educate Maine's Project>Login. Last year, USDOL designated Project>Login as a TechHire Community for its efforts to expand the IT and computer science professional network in the State of Maine.

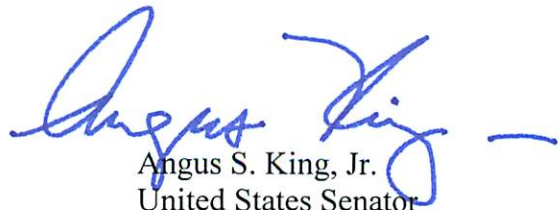
If funded, TechHire Maine would expand on the employer-education partnership developed through Project>Login. CCWI and Educate Maine's proposal would help accelerate employment and training services for participants, including youth, young adults, and older dislocated or unemployed workers who require the skills necessary to secure full-time employment in high-skill IT jobs.

Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of CCWI and Educate Maine's TechHire Maine initiative. We ask that you carefully review their application, subject to applicable laws and regulations, and please notify Katie Seelen (Senator Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (Senator King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator