

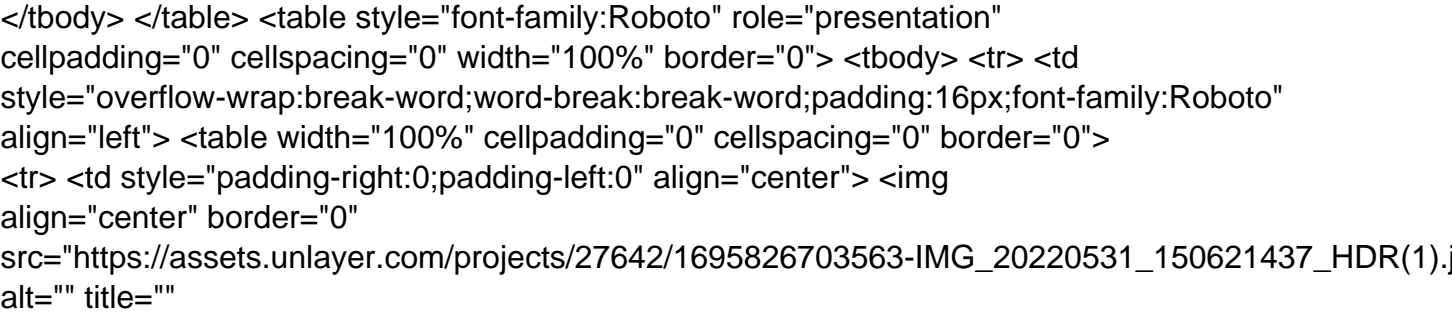
From: "Rep. Jared Golden" <repgolden@mail8.housecommunications.gov> To: Patrick White <patrick.white@mail.house.gov> Subject: Last week in Maine's Second District Date: Wed, 27 Sep 2023 15:27:06 +0000 <!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.0 Transitional //EN"

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<p style="font-size:14px;line-height:170%"><span style="font-family:arial,helvetica,sans-serif;line-height:23.8px">Hi Patrick,&nbsp;</span></p> <p style="font-size:14px;line-height:170%">&nbsp;</p> <p style="font-size:14px;line-height:170%"><span

style="font-family:arial,Helvetica,sans-serif;line-height:23.8px">Welcome to my weekly rundown, the latest on what I've been working on for Mainers in the Second District:&nbsp;</span></p> <p style="font-size:14px;line-height:170%">&nbsp;</p> <p style="line-height:170%"><span style="font-family:arial,Helvetica,sans-serif;line-height:23.8px"><strong>Making Government Work for Maine Small Businesses</strong></span></p> <p style="line-height:170%">&nbsp;</p> <p style="line-height:170%"><span style="font-family:arial,Helvetica,sans-serif;line-height:23.8px">Recently, a group of bipartisan colleagues and I introduced new legislation that would improve rural small businesses' access to federal resources and create better lines of communication between Main Street and Washington.</span></p> </div> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table style="font-family:Roboto" role="presentation" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="100%" border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="overflow-wrap:break-word;word-break:break-word;padding:10px;font-family:Roboto" align="left"> <table width="100%" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right:0;padding-left:0" align="center"> <a href="http://engagement.mail8.housecommunications.gov/f/a/wlffR6wKgkySwwCkOxsp-Q~~/AAS2ygA" target="\_blank">  </a> </td> </tr> </table> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table style="font-family:Roboto" role="presentation" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="100%" border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="overflow-wrap:break-word;word-break:break-word;padding:16px;font-family:Roboto" align="left"> <div style="font-size:14px;line-height:170%;text-align:left;word-wrap:break-word"> <p style="line-height:170%"><em><span style="color:#000;line-height:23.8px">Click hear to watch me introduce my legislation in the House Small Business Committee</span></em></p> </div> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table style="font-family:Roboto" role="presentation" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="100%" border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="overflow-wrap:break-word;word-break:break-word;padding:16px;font-family:Roboto" align="left"> <div style="font-family:arial,Helvetica,sans-serif;font-size:14px;line-height:170%;text-align:left;word-wrap:bre <p style="line-height:170%">It's been over 30 years since Congress established the Office of Rural Affairs (ORA), which was intended to give small businesses in rural areas a seat at the table. However, to the detriment of rural small businesses, the Office has been little more than a name on a door somewhere in the halls of the Small Business Administration (SBA).&nbsp;</p> <p style="line-height:170%">&nbsp;</p> <p style="line-height:170%">My bill would complete the unfinished business of actually making the SBA work for rural America and ensuring that it makes good on its promises to small business owners by strengthening the ORA. Specifically, it would appoint a permanent Assistant Administrator to run the office, require webinars and outreach events, and create transparency by mandating an annual report on the activities of the agency.</p> <p style="line-height:170%">&nbsp;</p> <p style="line-height:170%"><strong>Expanding Maine's Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs)</strong></p> <p style="line-height:170%">&nbsp;</p> <p style="line-height:170%">&nbsp;</p>

I also introduced the Small Business Development Centers Improvement Act of 2023, which would help strengthen the SBDC network — including the 21 SBDCs located throughout Maine — by authorizing an increase of \$35 million in annual funding over the next four years and helping SBDCs to do more to build awareness of their programs and services.



I've been an outspoken advocate for SBDCs throughout my time in Congress

Every small business in Maine should take a look at the no-cost services offered by Maine SBDCs. These services have helped small business owners across the Second District expand their businesses and create jobs in their communities.

My bill will help spread awareness about SBDCs, so more small businesses can get off the ground and expand their capacity through low or no-cost business training.

You can learn more about SBDCs and how to access their services

[http://engagement.mail8.housecommunications.gov/f/a/ELVnd6ZISOL\\_IyHx3E4KeA~~/AAS2ygA](http://engagement.mail8.housecommunications.gov/f/a/ELVnd6ZISOL_IyHx3E4KeA~~/AAS2ygA) here

Addressing Postal Closures in Maine's Second District

I recently wrote a

<http://engagement.mail8.housecommunications.gov/f/a/idXrm2nMuVUGZebpr9ONg~~/AAS2ygA> letter to Postmaster General Louis DeJoy in

order to share concerns that I have heard from my constituents in the Town of Etna about the closing of their postal facility.&nbsp;

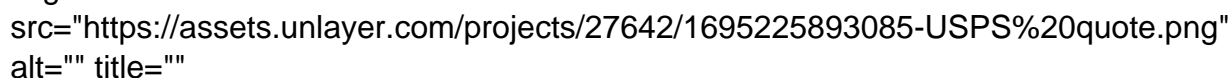
&nbsp;

Like many people in Maine's 2nd Congressional District, the residents of Etna live in a rural community far from pharmacies. This means that they rely on the United States Postal Service and its facilities for their mail order prescriptions. This closure has created extreme hardships for the people of Etna, requiring them to travel out of town to other facilities to access critical medications.

&nbsp;

The situation in Etna is not an isolated problem; in October of 2022, I wrote a letter to the Postmaster General regarding a similar problem with the closure of the West Paris, Maine facility. At that point, when I wrote that letter, the facility had been closed for more than a year, and as of writing this letter, the facility remains closed, quickly approaching two years. I wrote Mr. DeJoy directly because we need answers.

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The current situation is unacceptable. People in rural areas deserve the same quality of government services as anyone else, and I will continue to press the issue until USPS meets that obligation.

&nbsp;

As always, I want to hear from you about these issues and others that are important to working people in our district. Please feel free to reach out to our offices with any suggestions, comments, ideas, or concerns you have.

&nbsp;

**Bangor Office**: 6 State Street, Bangor ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

**Caribou Office**: 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009

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<strong>Office</strong>: 1710 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515. Phone: (202)
225-6306</span></li> </ul> <p
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style="font-size:14px;line-height:140%"><span
style="font-family:arial,helvetica,sans-serif;line-height:19.6px">It is my
pleasure to serve you in Congress. Please continue to provide me with your
crucial perspective and experiences.</span></p> <p
style="font-size:14px;line-height:140%"><br><span
style="font-family:arial,helvetica,sans-serif;line-height:19.6px">If you'd like
to get my newsletter directly to your inbox, you can sign-up here:
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<p style="font-size:14px;line-height:140%;text-align:center">Sign up for my newsletter to get updates on this issue and others!</p> </div> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table style="font-family:Roboto" role="presentation" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="100%" border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="overflow-wrap:break-word;word-break:break-word;padding:10px;font-family:Roboto" align="left"> <!--[if mso]><style>.v-button {background: transparent !important;}</style><![endif]--> <div align="center"> <!--[if mso]><v:roundrect xmlns:v="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:vml" xmlns:w="urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:word"



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Me</strong></span></p> </div> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <!--[if  
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Office</strong></p> <p  
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101<br>Bangor, ME 04401<br>(207) 249-7400</p> </div> </td> </tr> </tbody>  
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HOB<br>Washington, DC 20515<br>(202) 225-6306<br>Fax: (202) 225-2943</p> </div>

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