



Brad Farrin  
Senator, District 3

132<sup>nd</sup> MAINE SENATE

3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

June 23, 2026

Senator Craig Hickman, Chair  
Representative Anne-Marie Mastraccio, Chair  
Government Oversight Committee  
c/o Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability  
82 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0082

Dear Senator Hickman, Representative Mastraccio, and fellow members of the Government Oversight Committee,

Pursuant to the Government Oversight Committee's authority to direct reviews by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA), I respectfully request the Committee consider initiating an investigation into the development, financing, oversight and contractual arrangements associated with the Maine International Cold Storage Facility located on Maine Port Authority property in Portland.

Over the past year and a half, numerous Maine contractors and subcontractors [have reported](#) they remain unpaid for work performed on the project with claims totaling millions of dollars. Several businesses have stated they completed contracted work in good faith and paid their employees and suppliers, yet they have been [unable to secure payment](#) themselves. Concerns regarding the availability of lien rights and other protections typically afforded to contractors on private construction projects have come forward.

The Maine International Cold Storage Facility was developed as an economic development project intended to support Maine's seafood, agricultural and food export industries. The project involved the participation of the Maine Port Authority through a long-term lease arrangement and use of publicly controlled waterfront property. As such, the circumstances surrounding the project raise important questions regarding public accountability, risk allocation, oversight responsibilities and the adequacy of protections afforded to Maine businesses that participated in its construction.

Given the significant public interest involved, I believe an OPEGA review should, at a minimum, examine:

1. The role of the Maine Port Authority and any other state entities in the planning, financing, approval and oversight of the project;
2. The contractual and financial structure of the development;
3. Whether adequate safeguards were in place to protect Maine contractors and subcontractors from nonpayment;

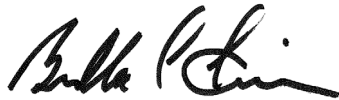
4. The legal and policy implications of locating privately developed projects on state-owned property and whether current law creates gaps in contractor protections;
5. Any lessons learned that may inform future public-private development projects involving state-owned land or public authorities; and
6. Whether legislative or administrative changes are warranted to prevent similar situations from occurring in the future.

The allegations that Maine businesses may be owed substantial sums for completed work are deeply concerning. Equally concerning is the possibility that current statutes may leave contractors without meaningful recourse when projects encounter either financial difficulties or inter-party disputes. If such gaps exist, the Legislature has an obligation to understand them and determine whether reforms are necessary.

An independent review by OPEGA would provide lawmakers and the public with a comprehensive understanding of the facts surrounding this matter and help ensure future economic development projects are structured in a manner that protects both taxpayers and Maine businesses. Due to this situation, future development of public-private projects now seems to be in jeopardy.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. I respectfully ask that the Government Oversight Committee place this matter on a future agenda for discussion and consideration.

Sincerely,



Brad Farrin  
State Senator