























specific tour stops. Stops typically highlight the region's natural resource-based industries, manufacturing, health care/public health, and education, providing an understanding of challenges, successes, and opportunities faced by the region's communities and economy. [Note: the bus tour moves to a different region of the state each biennium, e.g., Downeast Maine most recently and Western Maine prior to that.]

- Additional 2025 programming TBD.

For the 2022-2024 biennium, PLA was funded, designed, and executed in partnership with the following entities (and we are pursuing renewal of these commitments for 2024-2026):

- The University of Maine and University of Maine System
- Maine State Chamber of Commerce
- The Bingham Program
- Maine Community Foundation
- Educate Maine
- Elmina B. Sewall Foundation
- Maine Legislature

#### **Re-cap of programming in 2022-23 and 2023-24:**

In the 2022-23 PLA session, the kick-off Pre-Legislative Conference and 3-day Bus Tour to Downeast Maine were very popular and well attended. Fifty-two legislators attended the Conference, with solid participation from all parties and feedback surveys scoring the event 4.9 out of 5. In 2024 we expect closer to 75 legislators at the Conference, given historic attendance numbers and (hopefully) fewer competing events day-of. The Bus Tour had a record 90 sign-ups with 65 able to attend (most cancellations due to COVID and conflicting committee meetings). Bi-partisan participation was strong (43% Rs, 57% Ds), as was legislative leadership attendance, and feedback surveys scored the event 9.6 out of 10.

In 2024, the centerpiece PLA event was an overnight, 1.5-day tour of Southern Maine that brought 45 legislators, including leadership, to stops like BIW, Brunswick Landing (UMA, SMCC), IDEXX, UNE, Tanbark, and Atlantic Sea Farms. This was unprecedented short session turnout and the feedback surveys scored the event 9.7 out of 10. Other 2024 PLA events included a one-hour virtual Measures of Growth presentation and an Educator Workforce Legislative Reception in partnership with Educate Maine.

#### **Representative quotes from the 2022-24 post-event surveys:**

- "I always benefit from the opportunity to socialize with folks from the other side of the aisle."
- "Incredibly valuable stops and sessions. Managed to squeeze so much in, and somehow stay on schedule."
- "Well done and I hope the PLA tours will continue in both sessions."
- "Thank you for gathering such a great collection of knowledge and energy!!!!"
- "I want to thank you and MDF for putting together this opportunity to learn more about Maine. In all aspects, it exceeded my expectations and gave me, as a new legislator, a wonderful opportunity to build meaningful relationships. I know the experience will be invaluable in representing my district and helping Maine move forward into the future."