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**UNIVERSITY SYSTEM ASKS LEGISLATURE FOR BONDS  
TO IMPROVE CLASSROOMS, LABS, AND LIBRARIES**

**MacTaggart Cites the Age, Size, and Quality of Facilities  
as Reasons for 'Re-investing'**

AUGUSTA—Appealing to lawmakers to “protect and maintain the value of, and past investment in” Maine’s public universities, University of Maine System Chancellor Terrence J. MacTaggart on Wednesday urged the Legislature’s Appropriations Committee to endorse LD 315, a \$62 million bond proposal.

If approved by lawmakers and voters, the funds would be used to improve the quality and functionality of classrooms, laboratories, libraries, and technology at Maine’s seven universities.

“The reason for this proposal is largely related to the age and size of our physical plant,” MacTaggart explained. “We have more than 650 buildings located across the state. Close to 200 of them were built prior to President Eisenhower’s first term. Several of our classroom and laboratory buildings were constructed prior to the Spanish-American War.

“The total floor space of our classrooms, laboratories, libraries, research centers, and other facilities is 9.6 million square feet,” he continued. “To put that number in context, the University of Maine System makes up 50 percent of all State-owned property and assets.

“By comparison, State government facilities comprise 38 percent of those properties and assets,” MacTaggart stated. Maine’s Community College System makes up nine percent, and Maine Maritime Academy represents three percent, according to the Maine Risk Management office.

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“Over the last 140 years, generations of Maine people have made an enormous investment in their universities,” he added. “We need your help to protect and maintain the value of—and past investment in—those essential public resources by re-investing at this time.”

MacTaggart also stressed the importance of the bond request to addressing Maine’s so-called “brain drain.”

“Today’s college-bound high school graduates are consumers,” he said. “When considering where to spend their tuition dollars, they and their families shop around, looking for the best value for the dollar. If Maine’s universities don’t have the modernized classrooms, labs, libraries, and technology that they want and expect, they will look elsewhere – and ‘elsewhere’ generally means out of state.

“The investments we are seeking in LD 315 would address some of the most glaring and substantive shortcomings that exist across our campuses,” MacTaggart explained. “Not only would the bond revenues improve the quality and functionality of our universities, they would help us compete for a larger share of Maine’s college-bound high school graduates.”

Established in 1968, the 34,200-student University of Maine System is the state’s largest educational enterprise. It features seven universities – some with multiple campuses – located across the state, as well as 11 University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 75 interactive distance learning sites. For more information, log onto [www.maine.edu](http://www.maine.edu).