March 28, 2025

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S.W. Washington, DC 20250

RE: Strong Support for the BDO Zone Initiative

Dear Secretary Rollins,

I am writing to express our support for the Biofuel Development Opportunity (BDO) Zone Initiative as a means to drive rural economic development in America.

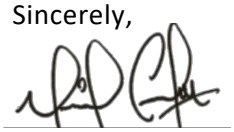
Biofine Developments Northeast Inc., ("BDNE") is a Maine bio-based chemicals and fuels refiner. BDNE is currently developing the first of a planned multiphase project in Lincoln, Maine, to utilize forestry and agricultural waste and convert it into a carbon-negative heating fuel substitute, ethyl levulinate or EL100. In addition to EL100, BDNE's proprietary technology produces green renewable chemical streams including sodium formate (a non-corrosive de-icer) and many other valuable co-products. Our process utilizes cellulosic waste occurring in predominantly from rural areas. The first plant in Lincoln will bring over $125 million in new rural investment, with plans for additional plants exceeding over $1.0 billion.

As described above, our company, BDNE, is a prime candidate and potential beneficiary of the BDO Zone rating, with our flexible feedstock requirements utilizing wood and a variety of agribusiness residues.

A BDO Zone rating would be an invaluable piece of technical assistance in our development efforts and will provide due diligence needed to move a project forward in this area. We anticipate that our new facility in this region will create or support more than 120 jobs creating a sustainable market for previously underutilized resources.

We fully support the BDO Zone Initiative and encourage USDA to continue expanding this important program.

Sincerely,



Mike Cassata
Chief Development Officer
Biofine Developments Northeast Inc.