

Anthony Eric Jackson
Brewer
LD2

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government: my name is Anthony Jackson, I live in Brewer, Maine and I am writing to you to testify in favor of LD 2.

I am in favor of LD 2 for a number of reasons. As a Black man, activist, and community organizer who grew up here, it seems obvious to me that this bill is an important step in making informed policy decisions. Far too often Black, Indigenous, and people of color are forgotten, overlooked, and disregarded. Even if unintended, policies that do not consider the impact on these communities will continue to harm them. On a personal level, my most damaging experiences have come from uninformed people, because when wielding power ignorance leads to destruction. We are all here to build a better collective future; therefore the same sense of urgency, diligence, and scrutiny that is put into the financial security of the state needs to be applied to the security of our people when implementing policies. To do that we need to make the health and wellbeing of our BIPOC communities a priority. Having accurate, reliable, and accessible information on their lived experience is one small part of doing that. In the end, it will take much more. It will take courage to make changes when presented with new information. It will take real investment of time, resources, and energy. It will take the faith and belief of our communities when they speak of their needs. I am in favor of LD 2 because it provides a path to track our progress, and to prevent damaging regression; especially in these times, we have no room to go backward.

Thank you,

Anthony Jackson