



February 5, 2025

**Testimony to the 132nd Maine Legislature
Committee on Labor**

Greetings Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and honorable members of the Committee. My name is Josh Steirman and I am the Director of Government Relations for the Maine Bankers Association. We are the trade association representing 34 retail banks operating across the State of Maine, with over 9,000 employees in virtually every community state-wide. Last year, our banks provided over \$2.5 billion in residential real estate loans, and over \$3.2 billion in small business loans. Banks are deeply embedded in their communities: last year, bankers volunteered over 145,000 hours, and donated over \$18 million to charitable causes. Maine bankers are your neighbors, working to provide a safe place for deposits, modern technology solutions, fraud protection, a home mortgage, or a small business loan.

The Maine Bankers Association is testifying today in regards to L.D. 61, *An Act to Regulate Employer Surveillance to Protect Workers*. We respectfully oppose the bill.

Our primary concern is the impact of this law upon remote workers. Increasingly, tellers, customer service representatives, and other employees with core functions relating to sensitive customer information are working remotely from home. To ensure the security of customer data, some electronic monitoring of employee activity may be necessary. We are concerned that this bill may inadvertently limit flexible work-from-home arrangements which can be mutually beneficial: meeting worker needs, giving employers broader hiring pools, and ultimately providing enhanced customer experience.

Maine banks prioritize the safety of and security of customers and their sensitive personal data. We take this responsibility very seriously and spend countless resources developing procedures, training, and culture to actualize our deep regard for the safe handling of sensitive customer information. Customers trust their banks, and banks have a responsibility to ensure that employees protect this trust.

We are grateful for revisions to this bill since the 131st Legislature recognizing the need for surveillance related to security, safety, and handling of data. This provision is vital for many core functions of financial institutions including but not limited to cash handling, customer privacy, and cyber security.

We thank the Committee for its consideration and are happy to answer any questions at work session.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua Steirman
Director of Government Relations