



Testimony of Maine Press Association

Honorable Tim Nangle, Senate Chair
Honorable Holly Stover, House Chair
Joint Committee on State and Local Government

January 27, 2023

RE: LD 133, An Act to Include a Representative of Newspaper and Other Press Interests on the Archives Advisory Board

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and Members of the Joint Committee on State and Local Government:

The Maine Press Association supports this legislation.

Comprising 43 print newspapers and digital news sites across the state, the MPA advocates for the interests of open and transparent government.

The Archives Advisory Board provides guidance to the State Archivist for retention schedules for public records maintained by state and local government, including municipalities, counties, schools, and special districts.

Its work affects public access to governmental records, both now and decades — even centuries — into the future.

The Maine Press Association, founded in 1864, is one of the oldest professional news organizations in the nation. Our goals include promoting and protecting the public's right to know.

While the Archives Advisory Board currently has two appointed members representing the interests of public access to government records, the MPA supports adding a member who will represent news and media interests. This addition, we believe, will provide essential 'Right to Know' perspective, and be beneficial to the Advisory Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Maine Press Association Legislative Committee:

Lynda Clancy, Editorial Director, Penobscot Bay Pilot

Joe Charpentier, Lewiston Sun Journal

David Dahl, Editor, Maine Monitor

Jodi Jalbert, Publisher, Sun Media Group

Dan McLeod, Managing Editor, Bangor Daily News

Judith Meyer, Executive Editor, Sun Journal, Kennebec Journal, Morning Sentinel

Marian McCue, Editor, Portland Phoenix

Courtney Spencer, VP of Advertising, Portland Press Herald

Maia Zewert, Editor, Lincoln County News

