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May 4, 2023

Senator Anne Beebe-Center, Chair Representative Sue Salisbury, Chair Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety 100 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

> Re: L.D. 1492, An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center

Greetings, Senator Beebe-Center and Representative Salisbury,

I am writing neither for nor against, LD 1492, An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center.

The MIAC's mission to share information between law enforcement agencies across the country benefits the work of the Office of the Attorney General. The work of our Criminal and Investigations Divisions sometimes overlaps with efforts happening in other states, making our efforts on computer and financial crimes or drug trafficking, for example, more efficient and effective.

We are also conscious that some might have objections to how the MIAC collects or disseminates this information. To the extent that the public and the legislature would like more transparency about the MIAC's activities, we agree that our Office is an appropriate place to employ an auditor who can conduct independent review of this work. We have worked with the sponsor of the bill and are comfortable with the language regarding the placement of a new staff person in our Office, assuming appropriate funding can be secured.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Frey Attorney General