

To: Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Honorable Members of Maine's Veterans
And Legal Affairs Committee

From: Melodie Greene, Ph.D.

1583 River Road

Calais, Maine 04619

**Testimony in Opposition to LD 1578: An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the
President of the United States by National Popular Vote (NPV)**

As a native Mainer whose first American ancestor arrived here in the 1600s; whose great, great, great, great, great-grandfather signed the Association Test in 1776 (for which he might have hung, if the British had won the Revolutionary War); whose relatives served the United States in the Civil and Second World Wars; and whose mostly-Maine life has, pretty much, epitomized the "American dream," I feel a strong allegiance to my state and my country—whose founders carefully studied what had and had not worked for other countries when they crafted our Constitution. Which brings me to **my first objection to LD 1578:**

1. **Without the consent of Congress, it would be unlawful**, according to Article I, Section 10, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution. If a change is made to the voting system, I believe it should be done through the Constitutional amendment process, to insure that it is legal and that everything is done properly before anything is enacted. Some have suggested that the United States is currently in a cold civil war; as thrice-wounded, Union Lieutenant Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr. (later Supreme Court Justice Holmes) learned in the 1800s, all that stands in the way of the barbarism of (a hot) civil war is the law.

I grew up in a family of Democrats and have been a registered Democrat for most of my adult life. Like many Democrats, I was appalled when Donald Trump was elected president. Since then, I've been appalled to see politicians in my own party (including some of the shenanigans that went on in the Maine legislature this past session) using the same kind of dirty tricks that we'd attributed to Republicans. Since it is currently Democrats who seem most interested in a national popular vote, **I also object to LD 1578 because:**

2. **It is too politically partisan.**

Since most states currently have a winner-take-all method of counting their electoral votes, there is already something of a national popular vote in place. Maine is one of only two states that award electoral delegates based on how individual districts voted.

3. Not only **would LD 1578 disenfranchise many voters in Maine's 2nd Congressional District**, one could argue that the national winner-take-all method also disenfranchises too many people (as would the NPV) and that a district by district method would be a fairer way to count votes nationally.

4. Because Maine's 2nd Congressional District is much more rural than its 1st Congressional District, **rural communities would lose even more influence than they've already lost over the years**—as the cities have grown and most of our tax dollars, resources (including State Police coverage), and people have flowed towards Portland—if the NPV was passed.

5. Small states like Maine have benefited from our Constitutional Republic's division of power between the states and the national government—the representational democracy that the Electoral College operationalizes during national elections—so not only would

Maine's 2nd Congressional District's political clout be diminished as part of the NPV's Interstate Compact, **the entire State of Maine's political clout could also be diminished if LD 1578 was adopted, especially if it becomes a first step towards abolishing our representative form of government.** Moreover, because of their smaller populations, it seems unlikely that presidential candidates would spend any more time in small (non-swing) states under an NPV system than they do now.

Looking down the NPV road, and assuming that most countries are populated by far more people on the poorer end of the spectrum than the richer, it seems likely that the majority of Americans voting within an NPV system would vote for the candidates who would promise to provide them with more and more benefits paid for by the richer citizens (or just added to the already-too-high national debt which, in 2023, was higher than our national defense budget!)—until those richer citizens decided it was not in their best interests to remain in the United States. So, **finally, I oppose LD 1578 because:**

- 6. By diminishing states' rights and the strength of countervailing voices in our diverse country's "marketplace of ideas," the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact could, in the long run, transform the dynamism of our (currently) representative democracy into—not a direct democracy but—a stagnating socialist state.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Melodie Greene
mpgitb@gmail.com