

1471 Bear Hill Rd.  
Dover-Foxcroft, ME 04426  
January 2, 2024

Senator Craig Hickman, Representative Laura Supica and Members of the Joint Standing Committee On Veterans and Legal Affairs:

My name is Eric Boothroyd, a retired citizen residing in Dover-Foxcroft, and I wish to submit this testimony to the committee **in favor** of the passage of LD 1578 “an Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States”.

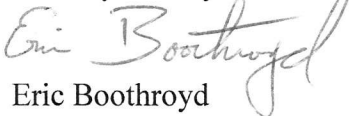
Every election for Municipal, County, State and Federal office is awarded to the candidate who receives the most votes, except for the President of the United States. The Presidential Election is governed by the Constitutionally-mandated Electoral College, where each State is free to decide how they want to apportion their Presidential Electors. Unfortunately, most States have adopted a “winner-take-all” approach and delivers all of its Electors to the candidate who won the popular vote in that State. This disenfranchises all of the votes that were cast for the minority candidate in that State.

I am proud that Maine (Dirigo!) is one of only two States that makes an attempt to apportion their Electoral Votes more fairly, and I am pleased to see the ranked-choice voting (RCV) language added to this bill. This ensures that the Presidential ticket is elected by not just the most voters, but by a *majority* of the voters. This can be crucial with the rise of Third Party Candidates.

The adoption of a National Popular Vote Interstate Compact is not unconstitutional. The U.S. Constitution says, “Each State shall appoint, in such Manner as the Legislature thereof may direct, a Number of Electors..”. This is within your power to choose how Electors are determined.

Five times in our country’s history, the President of the United States has been elected in disregard to the cumulative votes cast by the national, popular electorate. It is time to take measures to make the Presidential election just like all other elections where every vote counts. I urge the Committee to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1578.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
Eric Boothroyd