Karl Pingree East Machias LD 1578

While there are many issues coming before you in Augusta these days, there are few that are as important as Maine becoming part of the National Popular Vote alliance. Passage of LD 1578 would do just that. The legislation would move us toward electing our president the same way we elect virtually every other public official in our lives. The same way we have made collective decisions since we were youngsters on the playground at school or amidst a sibling feud in the backyard. There is no better way to empower each and every voter in this and every other state than to give every one a vote that has an equal share in making the final decision. It is, in the end, far more democratic (note: small d) than electing our most important office holder by state blocs (48 states) or congressional district blocs (Maine & Nebraska.) While this could easily become yet another Republican / Democrat issue, I urge you to look at this taking the long view. The compact will only take effect once enough states representing over half of the electoral votes have signed on. That will clearly not happen until Joe Biden and Donald Trump are in the rear view mirror of presidential politics. It is ever so important to cast your vote on this issue realizing that there is no elected federal (or state) office that does not follow the "one person one vote" principle except how we elect our president. This is our chance to change that. I urge all members to vote in the affirmative on LD1578.