



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **Katrina J. Smith**

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Good morning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is Katrina Smith and I represent District 62: China, Palermo, Somerville, Windsor and Hibberts Gore. I am here today to testify OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 1578; An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote.

I am proud to bring my voice to the state as a Representative to a rural population of Maine. Thank goodness the 1570 people of my hometown of Palermo have someone here to speak for their individual needs and desires that greatly differ from anyone on the coast or anyone who resides in a city such as Portland. I dare say each Senator and Representative sitting here today has the same thought, "Thank goodness they are here to represent the people of their individual district". Representation that works is a crucial piece to the governing of our states and our country.

When we extrapolate out this representation logic to the country, why in the world would we think that adopting the National Popular Vote would be an idea whose time has come? Why would we think that having the voice of Mainers watered down would in any way benefit the people of Maine and our distinct needs and desires as we contemplate a Presidential candidate?

The Constitution of the United States of America has kept citizens of the United States safe and free for 240 years. Since our founding, we have been *the* beacon of freedom and hope to people across the globe, a shining example of a nation founded on laws that respect the rights of individual citizens and individual states. Amazing protections are built into the Constitution that have stood the test of time. Yet now the Maine State Legislature is ready to throw caution to the wind and give the National Popular vote a try?

The wise men who wrote our Constitution were cognizant of the "tyranny of the majority" and set up the Electoral College so that minority groups could have a voice in the election of our executive leader, the President. I urge you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS on LD 1578.

Sincerely,

Katrina J. Smith

District 62 China, Hibberts Gore Township, Palermo, Somerville, and Windsor

State Representative