

John Howard
Lisbon
LD 1578

Goodmorning Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and members off the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. My name is John Howard, a resident of Lisbon, Maine, and I am testifying in support of LD 1578.

I'm convinced that Maine's joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact will mean that my vote in Presidential Elections will have the most meaning and that Maine will be more fully represented.

It is common knowledge that candidates pay attention only to battleground states. In 2020 96% of general election campaign events were in just 12 states. Maine received only two visits. In the current system Mainers' votes aren't needed to win an election. In reality, Maine's concerns and experiences can help chart a way forward in these difficult times, in areas such as climate change, working waterfronts, broadband access in rural areas, immigrants and so many other timely issues. Our motto, Dirigo, "Maine leads", is true but is made a joke in the current system. We can change that by passing LD 1578.

State by state since 2007, legislatures have been joining the NPV and changing the way their electors are chosen. This state by state legislative action is exactly what the Founders envisioned under Article II, Section 1. We need to pass LD 1578 and I urge you to do so. Thank you.

John Howard, Lisbon, Maine