

Tessa Burpee  
Brewer  
LD 1578

Dear Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee,  
My name is Tessa Burpee, I live in Brewer and I am writing to oppose LD 1578.

Our country is a constitutional republic, not a democracy and the electoral college is designed to give rural states like ours - and more specifically rural areas like District 2 - a voice in the national election.


Regardless of how a person feels about it, the last two presidential elections are great examples of how the electoral college allows rural areas like District 2 here in Maine to have a voice in the presidential election. Because Maine splits its votes based on who the people in each of its two districts vote for, one electoral vote from Maine was awarded to Donald Trump in 2016 and 2020 and three to Hillary Clinton and Joe Biden in 2016 and 2020 respectively. This is how the electoral college was designed to work - electoral votes represent how the people in an area actually voted. The people of District 2 showed up, we voted and our electoral vote was cast accordingly. (The people of District 1 also showed up, voted and their electoral vote was also cast according to who they voted for.)

I grew up in District 2 and still live in District 2. If passed, and a similar situation happens in the next election, this bill would allow our votes to be ignored and surrender our voice to the popular vote of the rest of the country. Our one electoral vote would be given to whoever gets the most votes outside of our district - ignoring the fact that we are a constitutional republic. We are not a democracy. It is only one vote, but it is one vote - and it is ours to cast.

Please consider the long term consequences for our state. A presidential candidate would never have to campaign in Maine again. A presidential candidate would be under no obligation to consider the issues that are important to our rural state, nor would they have any accountability to represent us in their national campaign or presidency. They will campaign where the masses are, they will make promises to the places that have the most population and will be under no obligation to care about the people of Maine AT ALL. This bill will make both political parties and the people of our entire state vulnerable; we will be at the mercy of the more populated cities and regions of our country and the candidates who serve them first.

For those of you who represent the people of the 2nd District, please do not ignore how the majority of your constituents have voted in the last two elections. Please consider what that says about the independent spirit of all Mainers — our two districts voted differently in the last two presidential elections, so we split the electoral votes accordingly. You are elected to represent the people of Maine - please ensure that our voice continues to be heard in the national political arena by voting against these bills.

Let's continue to use the electoral college as it was designed to work - to represent rural areas like District 2 by casting our electoral vote for the person who receives the most of OUR votes. Please vote ought not to pass on LD 1578.

 Thank you,  
Tessa Burpee