



Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business: my name is Adam Zuckerman and I am the lobbyist for the Maine People's Alliance.

MPA is Maine's largest community action organization with over 32,000 members across the state. Our mission is to create a world where everyone has what they need, contributes what they can, and no one is left behind.

I am honored to testify in favor of Representative Millett's LD 1815, an Act to Protect Maine's Consumers by Establishing an Abuse of Dominance Right of Action and Requiring Notification of Mergers."

Accelerating corporate concentration poses a threat to Maine communities and to our democracy itself. As outlined by Maine Public, corporate behemoth Charter Communications, which owns Spectrum, used its monopoly power to bully Southport and Readfield from creating municipal broadband sourced from Maine-based companies. This was a move that even ruffled the feathers of the Chamber of Commerce.

Before this role I spent nearly three years running a statewide small business coalition with over 4,000 members. What I learned is that Maine small businesses don't want special treatment—they just want a level playing field. When corporate giants abuse their power, it makes it near-impossible for Maine small businesses to compete. That ends up hurting their workers, consumers, and communities.

LD 1815, which has cosponsors from all four caucuses, helps to level that playing field. It establishes a right of action against corporate abuse, requires merging companies to give the same notice to Maine that they do to the federal government, and increases the penalty for monopolistic activity.

I urge you to vote a unanimous Ought to Pass. Thank you.