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LD 1578

I am writing in strong support of LD 1578 and urge you to vote ought to pass.

The electoral college was implemented with the 12th Amendment as a compromise by the Founding Fathers. A compromise to give the people their vote rather than give it to congress.

At that time, in 1802, the trip from Augusta to Washington DC took days. And yet, the integrity of those leaders shown through and they still attempted to give the people their vote in the best way possible for the time. Now, in the 21st century we have the means and ability to truly give the vote to the people and institute the popular vote.

This is not a “them” versus “us” conversation. It’s not a rural versus urban conversation. It is an “every vote counts” conversation.

Our democracy has been weakened by allowing the election of presidents who did not have the plurality of the vote. How is it a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people” if we don’t listen to the people?

There are a number of states with the same number of electoral college votes as Maine. Some of which, have a lower population than Maine does. With the current electoral college system, a Mainers vote is not equal. Only by instituting the national popular vote, will all Mainers truly have their voice heard. And presidential candidates will have to concern themselves with the whole country, rather than just specific “battleground “ states.

As a citizen of Maine and an elected official, who was elected with the popular vote, I have faith in the integrity of our Secretary of State and our election process. By voting ought to pass you will be telling our children, and all citizens, that their vote truly does count.