

To: Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary
From: Becky Layton Bartovics
Date: April 7, 2025
Re: LD 1408 An Act to Codify Judicial Deference to Agency Interpretations

Dear Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Members of the Judiciary Committee

I am a resident of North Haven and have been an active citizen participant in many agency meetings as well as providing testimony to various Legislative Committees. I am writing neither in support nor in opposition.

I am writing to you to express a caution about this bill. Maine's agencies are woefully short staffed. Because of that, many of our carefully crafted laws and regulations are not adequately supported by the agencies because they do not have the staff and time to do so. There are many vacancies that are posted but because the adequate funds have not been provided to hire at current salary levels, even though the rainy day fund is replete. This deficit makes agency advise less robust than one would expect.

I hope you will consider this problem when instructing the Judiciary to follow this legislation. Would it not be better to allow for a more nuanced approach to this effort?

Thank you for your time in considering my comments

Respectfully Submitted

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