



**Rhode Island Blockchain Council**

Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and esteemed members of the Committee,

My name is Chris Perrotta, I serve as the Chairman of the Rhode Island Blockchain Council and I am testifying in favor of LD 1286.

Our organization works at the intersection of technology, policy, and economic development to position New England as a responsible leader in blockchain innovation. While our base is Rhode Island, our mission is regional, and we believe that the prosperity of the entire New England corridor is enhanced when individual states take proactive, thoughtful steps, such as this one, to embrace emerging technologies.

LD 1286 is a commendable and necessary step toward ensuring that Maine is not a passive observer but an active participant in the digital economy. Blockchain and digital assets are no longer fringe concepts. They are reshaping financial services, supply chain integrity, digital identity, and even public records management. States that act now to create a positive and well-informed regulatory environment will reap the economic and strategic benefits for decades to come.

The structure proposed in this bill is both balanced and forward-thinking. By including legislators, academic experts, industry practitioners, and legal specialists, the commission ensures a multidisciplinary lens on complex questions. Moreover, its explicit focus on studying the current legal landscape, the role of non-fungible tokens, and potential legislation to attract responsible innovation reflects a pragmatic and growth-oriented mindset.

This is not merely about cryptocurrency, rather this is about ensuring that New England's economy is future-proofed, that its young technologists have a reason to stay and innovate locally, and that policymakers are equipped with accurate, real-time insights rather than reactive assumptions.

In summary, LD 1286 is not just a resolve, it's a signal. A signal to innovators that Maine is open for business. A signal to regulators that good governance and technological advancement can go hand in hand, and a signal to the entire northeast broadly that Maine is preparing for the future with diligence and vision.

On behalf of the Rhode Island Blockchain Council, I urge this Committee to support LD 1286 and to take this opportunity to lead Maine, and New England into the next era of economic and technological development.

Thank you for your consideration, I will now take any questions.

Respectfully,

**Chris Perrotta**

Chairman

Rhode Island Blockchain Council