



Dear Senator Bailey, Representative Mathieson, and distinguished members of the HCIFS Committee,

My name is Brian Michael Ouellette Jr, and I serve as the Director of the Maine Blockchain Council. I am writing today to express my strong support for LD 1286.

This bill represents not only a timely recognition of the growth and promise of emerging technologies, but also a concrete step toward ensuring Maine's long-term competitiveness in the digital economy.

Blockchain is more than cryptocurrency. It is an emerging form of digital infrastructure with far-reaching implications across various industries, including: supply chain management, real estate, healthcare, energy markets, and government services. States like Wyoming and Texas have already begun capitalizing on blockchain's potential by modernizing their laws, attracting investment, and incentivizing financial innovation. All to say, Maine must not be left behind on this issue.

By studying blockchain and creating a roadmap for its adoption, Maine can position itself as a hub for research, development, and workforce training in the digital economy. Please consider the following opportunities:

- **Higher Education and Research -**
Partnerships between universities and blockchain firms can lead to research grants, STEM curriculum enhancements, and tech incubators. The University of Maine System could become a regional leader in blockchain literacy and applied innovation.
- **Job Creation -**
Blockchain-based industries require not only software developers, but also legal analysts, financial compliance experts, cybersecurity professionals, and data scientists. These are high-skill, high-wage jobs that could help reverse brain drain and keep young talent in Maine.
- **Support for Rural Economies -**
Blockchain reduces dependence on physical infrastructure, enabling rural entrepreneurs to access global markets. A lobsterman, for example, could use blockchain to verify the provenance of his catch in international supply chains, commanding higher prices and consumer trust.

This is more than just a study commission; it is an invitation for Maine to lead. Blockchain is often likened to the internet in the early 1990s, misunderstood, decentralized, and rapidly evolving, sometimes beyond our own understanding. The states that take initiative now will be tomorrow's leaders.

By supporting LD 1286, you are communicating that Maine is ready to participate in the next chapter of technological and economic growth—on its own terms, with eyes wide open, and with a focus on real, tangible benefits for our Maine communities.

Thank you for your time and for your attention to this important matter. I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1286.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Michael Ouellette Jr.

Director, Maine Blockchain Council