

Senator Rafferty, Representative Murphy and other members of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee,

My name is D. Gordon Mott. I live in Lakeville in Penobscot County. I write today to testify in support of LD 1533, An Act to Ensure the Retention of R1 Research Institution Status by the University of Maine.

In my time as a graduate student years ago with a family of wife and three children working 40 hours a week and carrying a full class schedule, I am vividly aware of the need for adequate support for graduate students as they contribute, with their own financial struggles, to the welfare of the university.

The bricks and mortar of the institution are useless and lifeless without the presence of the faculty, students and graduate students. These last are critically important future elements in our society. They will become our future teachers, lawyers, judges, scientists, engineers, conservationists, physicians, and business leaders.

Please vote Ought to Pass LD 1533.

