

Leonard S. Freeman

24 Blueberry Lane, C64

Falmouth, ME 04105

(207) 781-0254 (home)

(207) 751-0900 (cell)

e-mail: Len.Freeman40@gmail.com

April 28, 2025

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

100 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Chairs Hickman, Supica and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

My name is Len Freeman and I am from Falmouth. I write to ask you to vote ought NOT to pass on LD 1149.

My reasons for defeating LD 1149 are as follows:

It **eliminates** ongoing absentee ballots, even though this has been a critical resource for Maine seniors and Mainers with disabilities.

It **cuts** the time period for early absentee voting by two days - two of the most popular days for early absentee voting.

It **prevents** absentee voters from allowing a trusted third-party, such as a friend or family member, to drop off their ballot.

It **takes away** local control by **limiting** the number of secure ballot drop-off boxes a town may offer.

It **second-guesses** town clerks, requiring a two-person, bipartisan team to check ballot boxes, instead of the clerk or a trusted member of their staff. This restriction will place undue pressure on town clerks, and will lead to many towns simply getting rid of their secure drop boxes.

It **prohibits** towns from including return postage on absentee ballots, even if local taxpayers vote to fund it.

It **prevents** voters from calling their town clerk to request an absentee ballot, making it harder for those without reliable transportation or internet to request it.

In sum, LD 1149 is a voter suppression measure and is unworthy of passage. Instead I ask you to send this measure to the ballot where voters will reject it in overwhelming numbers. Thank you.

Len Freeman