

Testimony of Greg and Lauren Soutiea – Co-owners of the Craignair Inn by the Sea LLC and Causeway Restaurant in St. George Maine.

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Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Greg Soutiea and together with my wife Lauren Soutiea, we have owned the Craignair Inn by the Sea and Causeway Restaurant in St. George for over 6 years now. We have grown the seasonal restaurant from 7 employees to now over 50 in peak season and a year-round restaurant giving us the opportunity to support 20+ of our staff with year-round jobs.

We wish to advocate **in support of LD 1224** “An Act to Comprehensively Protect Consumer Privacy.” We believe that LD1224 is a balanced approach that offers business-friendly framework while also protecting Maine residents and their privacy. It would provide clarity and align with neighboring New England states like NH, RI, and CT in their recent data privacy legislations.

We wish to advocate **in opposition of L.D. 1822** “An Act to Enact the Maine Online Data Privacy Act.” This would introduce significant changes and rules to Maine businesses that would be extremely difficult for us to comply with and continue our digital marketing strategies. This would put us at a disadvantage by limiting our ability to market to potential customers. It also would make Maine an outlier in this type of legislation as federal standards are beginning to take shape. Maine does not need to set such a high bar with this legislation such that it will be yet another requirement and disadvantage to Maine small businesses.

We are already looking at down projections for our hotel and restaurant this year with economic uncertainty, rising food/labor costs, and declining sentiment on summer travel by consumers. Further limiting our ability to market and reach potential customers will be harmful to ours and many other Maine businesses.

Testimony respectfully submitted on May 4th, 2025.

Greg Soutiea
SPRUCE HEAD
LD 1822

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