

ANDERSON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, LLC
15 CARDINAL WAY
WINSLOW, MAINE 04901
andersonenvironmentalhealth@gmail.com
(207) 649-6145

May 8, 2025

Testimony in Support of LD 1776: An Act to Establish the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board for the State House Complex

Dear Members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Norman Anderson. I am an environmental public health scientist and a Board member of the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council.

My testimony is in support of LD 1776: An Act to Establish the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board for the State House Complex. The interdisciplinary makeup of this proposed Board is consistent with a well-established environmental improvement strategy called an Environmental Management System (EMS) Protocol. See: <https://www.epa.gov/ems/basics-ems>.

EMS protocols have been implemented in the private sector for many years. While I was at the American Lung Association of Maine, I managed an EPA grant that pilot tested an environmental management system at Memorial Middle School in South Portland. The system was developed by a multi-disciplinary team from within the school that included the principal, school nurse, facility manager, and teacher, along with outside expertise in building performance and environmental management systems. The EMS protocol provided a systematic framework for identifying and assessing environmental health concerns, for implementing environmental improvement action, as well as for monitoring and evaluating activities directed towards achieving the EMS goals. Finally, the EMS framework provided a mechanism for making rational budget decisions regarding both short term and longer-term financing to make actual environmental improvements.

The ultimate beauty of the EMS is that it provides a consistent health improvement tool that can be universally applied to all buildings, regardless of the circumstances. As such, this bill could support a proactive conceptual framework that would not only benefit remedial actions but, more importantly, create a primary prevention strategy that would minimize environmental harms before they could impact the occupants of any building. Ultimately, it could motivate a professional community of practitioners that could communicate and learn from each other in substantial ways to benefit the health of Maine people.

I urge you to pass LD 1776.