

Testimony of Scott Carter  
62 Buck n Doe Trail  
Augusta, Maine  
571-359-1042

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Hearing before the Committee On Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
Cross Building, Room 214 at 1:00 p.m.

Good afternoon, Chair Rotundo, and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Thank you for holding this public hearing and for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Scott Carter, and I am a resident of Augusta. My comments today are my own based on my knowledge of social safety net programs that support our State's citizens facing economic and related challenges.

Prior to moving to Maine in 2021, I enjoyed a 30 year career in the Federal government, including serving as Chief of Government Affairs at USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) that administers the Nations 16 Federal nutrition programs including SNAP from 2007 to 2019, and as Disaster Response Coordinator for the FNS Office of Emergency Management from 2019-2021 before retiring in November 2021. I have an expert knowledge of the laws, regulations and policies that must be followed by states and local governments and organizations when administering federal government assistance programs.

I strongly support HP 1409/LD 2904 and urge the Legislature to advance this bill as an important step in protecting Maine's people, economy, and future.

At a time when the Trump Administration has repeatedly demonstrated a lack of support for Maine, this legislation reflects Maine's commitment to governing responsibly and in alignment with our state's values. Federal actions and policy choices under the Trump Administration have created uncertainty, threatened funding, and undermined programs that many Maine communities rely on. Rather than responding to Maine's needs with partnership and respect, federal leadership has too often chosen confrontation, neglect, or punitive approaches toward states that do not align politically.

LD 1409/LD 2904 recognizes that Maine cannot afford to wait for a federal government that is unwilling or unable to act in the best interests of our residents. This bill empowers Maine to take responsibility for its own priorities and ensures that our state remains resilient, fair, and economically strong despite federal instability or indifference.

Importantly, LD 1409/LD 2904 is not about partisan politics — it is about protecting Maine people. It reflects the reality that states must sometimes lead when federal leadership fails. Maine has a long history of pragmatic, people-centered governance, and LD 1409/LD 2904 continues that tradition.

By advancing LD 1409/LD 2904, the Legislature sends a clear message:

Maine will not be weakened by federal inaction or hostility.

Maine will protect its communities, workers, and families.

Maine will lead with common sense, dignity, and accountability.

For these reasons, I urge the committee and the full Legislature to support and pass LD 1409/LD 2904.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Scott Carter  
Augusta  
LD 2094

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