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LD 2174

I am Jennifer Garron of Sidney Maine, and I am writing to testify against the proposed legislation, LD 2174, "An Act to Increase Predictability in the Permitting of Renewable Energy Development."

While I am generally in favor of renewable energy, I am even more strongly, in fact vehemently opposed to undermining democracy. I simply believe that legislation such as this that dilutes the established rights of municipalities to regulate their own communities, dilutes democracy itself. Individual communities and towns have the right to determine their own situation and environmental policies. Any suggestion otherwise is patronizing as well as in opposition to the Maine Constitution, which enshrines this right.

Individual towns, cities, and communities are where democracy has the greatest chance to thrive. The voice of each individual is strongest in their own community. Hobbling the self-regulatory powers of communities dangerously dilutes the voice of the individual, thereby weakening democracy itself.

This legislation is an anathema to a healthy vibrant democracy. It is also unconstitutional. Any patriotic Mainer should oppose it.