



Teresa S. Pierce
Senator, District 25

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

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Testimony of Senator Teresa S. Pierce introducing
LD 450, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade and Replace Emergency Alert System Infrastructure of Maine Public
before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
April 25, 2023

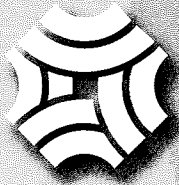
Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs, and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Teresa Pierce, and I represent Senate District 25, which includes Falmouth, Cumberland, North Yarmouth, Yarmouth (majority), Gray, and Long Island. Today, I am pleased to introduce LD 450, “An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade and Replace Emergency Alert System Infrastructure of Maine Public.”

This bill would create a bond issue to raise 17 million dollars to update the equipment and infrastructure of the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation, including both its emergency alert system and its radio and television network – these systems and network provide critical communication, public safety and emergency alert services to Mainers, whether they live in Houlton or Hollis. As you see from the handout, included in your packet and provided by Maine Public, their transmission network includes translators and microwave links across the state at nearly 30 sites that must be on-air at all times.

During the pandemic, we got a clear understanding of the importance of the statewide nature and value of Maine Public’s broadcasting system as people relied on it to gain access to COVID-19 updates, CDC briefings, and more. This bill would also ensure Maine Public would be able to continue to collaborate with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to provide the State’s emergency alert system.

Last session the legislature approved and provided \$10 million of the overall \$27 million needed – this bond would allow them to finish the job.

I hope this Committee will approve LD 450 so that we can continue to take advantage of the broadcasting services and emergency management system provided by Maine Public for years to come. I believe this is an efficient, cost-effective, strategic investment in Maine’s future. Please join me in supporting LD 450. Thank you for your time, I’m happy to answer any questions the committee may have.



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Maine Public Broadcast Network and Emergency Alert System

April 2023

