

I

**Testimony of Joe Legee, Deputy Director,
Maine Emergency Management Agency**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**LD 224, "An Act to Expand the Definition of Terrorism in the Laws Governing the
Maine Emergency Management Agency"**

February 3rd, 2025

Good morning, Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Joe Legee, and I am the Deputy Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency. I am here today to testify in support of LD 224, "An Act to Expand the Definition of Terrorism in the Laws Governing the Maine Emergency Management Agency".

This bill aims to expand the definition of "terrorism" in the laws governing the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency to include attacks on non-physical infrastructure, such as information and telecommunications technology systems, critical infrastructure, and computer networks. It also introduces a definition for "cyberattack."

The revision reflects the evolving nature of terrorism, which now includes not only physical threats but also cyberattacks. Current laws focus on physical harm or damage to infrastructure, but the proposed change acknowledges that cyberattacks can also disrupt critical information systems and infrastructure.

The updated definition aligns with the FBI's definition of terrorism, emphasizing the unlawful use of force or violence to intimidate or coerce for political or social purposes, while incorporating non-physical infrastructure into the scope of terrorist acts.

This bill represents a necessary and timely update to the statutory definition of terrorism to address the evolving landscape of threats, particularly in the realm of cybersecurity. By broadening the definition to include non-physical infrastructure, such as information and telecommunications systems, the bill ensures that critical infrastructure protection aligns with modern challenges. Recognizing the significant impact that cyberattacks can have on national security and public safety, this revision enhances the state's ability to prepare for and respond to these threats. The

incorporation of language consistent with federal definitions underscores the importance of a unified and comprehensive approach to combating terrorism in all its forms.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to address any questions, either now or during the upcoming work session.