

Cameron Reny Senator, District 13 **THE MAINE SENATE** 132nd Legislature

3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Sen. Cameron Reny supporting LD 243, "Resolve, to Name a Railroad Crossing in Wiscasset the James Weldon Johnson Crossing"

before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation March 5, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation, I am Senator Cameron Reny, and I represent District 13, which includes most of Lincoln County, including Wiscasset, and the towns of Washington and Windsor. Today, I am here to speak in support of <u>LD 243</u>, "Resolve, to Name a Railroad Crossing in Wiscasset the James Weldon Johnson Crossing."

James Weldon Johnson was a great American. He used his skills from his work as both an educator and a lawyer to work to improve his country. I know you have heard of his life work and accomplishments from others in the room today, but I must emphasize his impact on the world around him. His work as a civil rights leader and contributions to literature during the Harlem Renaissance are important and lasting.

Unfortunately, James Weldon Johnson died tragically in a collision at the railroad crossing in Wiscasset. However, as a Mainer, I feel proud that this man who worked to improve society chose to come to Maine to find respite from an often hostile world.

To name this railroad crossing after James Weldon Johnson harms no one. If anything, it honors the connection between a great man and our great state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Cameron Reny State Senator, District 13 *Representing Lincoln County and the towns of Washington and Windsor*