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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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**Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government on
LD 1214, An Act to Designate the Second Congressional District "Acadia"
April 2, 2025**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and esteemed colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. I am Joe Martin and I proudly represent the citizens of Senate District 19, which includes much of Northern Oxford County and communities in Franklin County. I am here to present LD 1214, *An Act to Designate the Second Congressional District "Acadia."*

Thank you for the opportunity to present **Bill 1214**, a bill that proposes renaming Maine's Second Congressional District to simply, *Acadia*.

This is a modest change in language, but one with deep historical and cultural significance. The bill does **not** alter the district's boundaries or functions in any way. It simply recognizes the identity and heritage already rooted in the region.

The name *Acadia* traces back to the 17th century, when French-speaking Acadian settlers made their home throughout Eastern and Northern Maine. Despite being expelled during the British conquest in the 1700s—a tragedy known as the Great Expulsion—many Acadians returned and rebuilt their lives in what is now Maine's Second District.

Their legacy is still present today—in the farmlands of Aroostook, the coastlines of Hancock and Washington Counties, and the wooded hills of Western Maine. You see it in our festivals, our place names, and even in the resilient, self-reliant spirit of the people who live there. It is, quite literally, *Acadia*.

This renaming is about honoring that story. It's about embracing the historical identity of the region, giving residents something that reflects who they are and where they come from.

In an age when people feel increasingly distant from government, this is a small, meaningful way to foster pride, connection, and cultural recognition—without cost, and without complexity.

I respectfully urge the committee to support Bill 1214, and let Maine's Second District carry the name it has long deserved: *Acadia*.

Thank you, and I'm happy to take any questions.