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Testimony of Rep. Adam Lee presenting

**LD 1356, An Act to Change the State's Method of Allocating Electoral Votes
from a Congressional District Method to a Winner-take-all Method
Contingent on the State of Nebraska Changing its Method of Allocating
Electoral Votes**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Hickman and Representative Supica, esteemed members of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, I am Adam Lee; I represent the hard-working people of House District 89 in Downtown and New Auburn. It's my honor to present LD 1356. A bill with far too long a name but which seeks to maintain our method for calculating our four electoral college votes by having two determined by statewide vote and the other two allotted by vote of each of our two congressional districts.

Maine and Nebraska are the only states that allot our electoral college votes according to congressional district. We adopted our system in 1972. Nebraska adopted its in 1992. Our processes were essentially unchallenged until the 2024 election. Since then, a constant and seemingly unending onslaught on the process has occurred in Nebraska, the people pushing to change Nebraska's process to a "winner take all" system are out-of-state far-right activists whose only desire is to ensure that the second Nebraska congressional district – which is comprised primarily of Omaha – goes to a Republican presidential candidate. Fortunately, and based on the brave displays of two Republican Senators, Nebraska has resisted the onslaught. As recently as last week, those Senators again voted against the out-of-state attack on their voting system.

Unfortunately, we know that the run-up to 2028 will see more and more challenges to Nebraska's system. It will see added partisan political pressure, and it may see a Nebraska Legislature with too much pressure to hold the line. That is unless we remove the incentive for changing Nebraska's system. We cannot ignore that we play a role in this political battle. We cannot ignore that the fate of our system is very much tied to the fate of Nebraska. We cannot ignore that we are mirror images and the fact that our second district is a recently Republican-leaning district in a Democratic-leaning state and that Nebraska's second district is a Democratic-leaning district in a Republican-leaning state.

A fun fact for those who have threatened me with violence and called me an idiot (and worse) for introducing this bill and who have oh so ignorantly asserted that this bill is First District people attacking the rights of voters of the second district. Auburn is in the Second District. The second district is where my family roots are. As many of you know, and some of you might be surprised to learn, my dad is from Madawaska, much of my extended family still lives in the St. John Valley, and I'm proud to be raising my family in the Second District. Eight of the co-sponsors of this bill are from the second district. I have devoted my career to ensuring our communities can have their voices heard.

I did not vote for Donald Trump, but many of my neighbors did – and I strongly support our system that protects the will of the voters.

I think it is unfortunate that our system is under attack by national partisans who don't care about our voices, our unique system, or us. They want our electoral college votes. Nothing else. It is vital that we protect our system. Hope and inaction aren't a strategy and pretending that what happens in Nebraska doesn't affect us is a sure path to losing our system.

So, as I see it, here are our options: Do nothing. Hope everything turns out OK and that well-meaning people in Nebraska hold the line. Do nothing, and watch as money, power, and partisan pressure destroy Nebraska's system, and then see the money, power, and partisan pressure come for us. Because who could blame it. An eye for a partisan eye.

I don't like that option. I know what that option looks like, and I know that it means that our unique system will die. So, that's why I say we go with this option. Support this bill. Be proactive. Establish a deterrent. Remove the incentive for out-of-state money, power, and partisan pressure to destroy our system. This bill is a solution and strategy between parties and states to secure our system from outside pressure. I hope you join that solution and choose action over inaction. Choose strategy over hope. Be part of the strategy.

I'd be happy to answer your questions, provide you with information, and participate in your discussion at the work session.

Thank you.