

P.O. Box 336 Camden, ME 04843 mainepressassociation.org

Sen. Carney, Rep. Kuhn, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, my name is Judith Meyer. I offer testimony on behalf of the Maine Press Association in favor of LD 1813, An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning State Boards and Commissions.

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The Maine Press Association fully supports the bill before you as another positive step forward in a successful pattern of increasing education of public officials and awareness of the requirements under Maine's Freedom of Access Act to preserve and protect public access.

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The **Maine Press Association**, founded in 1864, is one of the oldest professional news organizations in the nation. Our goals, as spelled out in our charter and by-laws are: To promote and foster high ethical standards and the best interests of the newspapers, journalists, and media organizations of the state of Maine that constitute its membership; to encourage improved business and editorial practices and better media environment in the state; and to improve the conditions of journalism and journalists by promoting and protecting the principles of freedom of speech and of the press and the public's right to know.