



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 18, 2026

*Testimony of Representative Morgan Rielly in opposition to*  
**LD 2228, An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government*

Good afternoon, Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Morgan Rielly, and I represent House District 127, which includes part of Westbrook. I also serve as the House chair for the Citizen Trade Policy Commission. I am submitting testimony requesting the exemption of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission from **LD 2228, An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions**.

For those who aren't aware, the Citizen Trade Policy Commission plays a key part in helping the state respond to international trade policies that impact the state's economy, along with giving a voice to Maine's workers on how trade impacts them. The Commission serves as a dedicated body to review trade developments and advise policymakers to ensure Maine's core industries (i.e. manufacturing, forest products, agriculture, commercial fishing, aquaculture, etc) are represented and that the state remains responsive to shifting global economic conditions.

I was appointed as House chair of the Citizen Trade Policy Commission by the Speaker of the House at the end of the first session. Over the summer and fall, I met with both Maureen Terry of DECD and President Wade Merritt of the Maine International Trade Center. We discussed how to revitalize the commission to address today's trade landscape and were working on updated statutory language to modernize the commission's structure and responsibilities. While a bill reflecting these updates was recently introduced, it was not accepted by the Legislative Council due to second session filing constraints. After this session ends, we are hoping to restart meetings and to prepare for the 133rd Legislature.

Eliminating this vital commission during this current moment would remove a key forum for Maine's workers, businesses and policy makers from addressing emerging international trade challenges, just as efforts are underway to strengthen and modernize its mission.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.