



Maine Municipal
Association

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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither For nor Against

LD 142 – An Act to Fund Climate-related Service Work

and

LD 143 - An Act to Support Rural Service Programming and Promote Volunteerism

January 31, 2023

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony neither for nor against LD 142 and LD 143 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

The Maine Climate Corps and Maine Service Fellows unite two important aspects of our future—youth engagement and climate change mitigation. These two programs will engage young professionals and community members in meaningful projects with the intent of advancing priorities that include protecting the environment at the local level through community service and volunteerism. Municipalities are supportive of state efforts to assist rural areas, especially when they are tasked with providing needed services to their residents in addition to projects for the benefit of future generations.

Regardless of the magnitude of success, any step forward is progress, and this bill provides assistance to foster that outcome instead of building barriers. The LPC is neither for nor against LD 142 and LD 143 on the basis that engaging young people today will spur more interest in finding solutions to environmental issues among the future generation of activists, policymakers, and community leaders, but with the knowledge that not all municipalities possess a rural designation and can benefit from this assistance.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.