

To: Senator Mark Lawrence, Representative Seth Barry, and members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Joint Committee.

My name is Cheryl Saniuk-Heinig and I am a resident of Rockland, Maine. I am submitting this written testimony to voice my support for LD 1130 “An Act To Establish a Public Registry for Automated Telephone Calls and So-called Robocalls.” As we have all experienced, the amount of unexpected calls frequently featuring an automated robotic voice has gotten out of hand. Our phone numbers are being exchanged and used by who knows what company from who knows what location. And technology has risen to make auto dialed calls and robotic messages easier and more efficient for anyone to use regardless of their intentions. Spoofing technology enables an unwanted caller to appear from your local zip code or appear as a number only a few digits off from your phone number hoping the familiarity will trick you into answering the call. Other features such as automatic dialing technology allow a company to call large quantities of people simultaneously with a promotion, message, or even scams. I find many of these calls annoying, bothersome, and futile to prevent even if I am willing to take the time and effort to stop them.

One of the reasons I am writing to voice my support for this registry is because it only establishes a tool for Maine residents who want to take the time and effort necessary to revoke any perceived consent companies have to contact them through automatic dialers or with robo-call messages. It does not burden an entity by outlawing what in some circumstances is a helpful and efficient technology. Instead, it allows a Maine resident to understand where to turn should they desire a person or entity to cease contacting them through this technology. It would allow me to still provide consent for some entities – such as my doctor or the Maine Health Covid-19 vaccine line – to contact me through auto dialers or with robocalls. But the creation of the registry will more importantly provide a clear path for me to find the contact information of a company uninvitedly and continuously calling me regarding a warranty on my vehicle or an exciting opportunity to get rich from the comfort of my home. Having access to that contact information will allow me, not the State, to take the action to request my information be deleted or revoke any consent to contact me. Even for small businesses that utilize auto dialers or robo-call technology, filling out a single form with their contact information and submitting it to the Commission appears to me a small burden, if any, yet it will provide Maine residents the information needed to prevent

unwanted calls through automated systems. If a registry is established, I imagine not all companies would abide by it. But it is still a start. It is a start for residents who are willing to take the time and effort to exert control over their phone number as a personal piece of their information and to emphasize the power our consent can, and should, have. Thank you for your time and consideration in establishing this public registry.