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**TESTIMONY of Jeff Letourneau  
Executive Director, Networkmaine  
University of Maine System**

April 27,2021

Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Berry, and distinguished members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Jeff Letourneau and I submit this testimony in support of the goals and intent of LD 1484, “An Act To Enhance the ConnectMaine Authority's Capacity To Provide World-class Internet” as amended by its sponsors.

I serve as the Executive Director of Networkmaine at the University of Maine System. Networkmaine has a membership of almost 1,000 K12 schools, public libraries, higher education institutions, non-profits, healthcare, research facilities, and local, county, and state governments spread across all regions of the state and in most of Maine’s communities.

In addition to these duties, I also serve as a member of the ConnectMaine Authority, a member of the Maine Broadband Coalition’s advisory committee, a board member of the Old Town – Orono Fiber Corporation (a municipal broadband utility), and a founding principal of Maine’s only Internet Exchange Point, the Northern New England Neutral Internet Exchange (NNENIX).

In support of our membership Networkmaine has constructed, co-invested in, or leased over 1,400 route miles of fiber optic facilities, often referred to as middle-mile fiber, across Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts on which we operate a high-performance data communications network to interconnect our members to each other and to out-of-state facilities through which we gain access to the Internet, major cloud providers, and other key resources. Networkmaine members enjoy the reliability, affordability, and high performance that only strategic investments in a well-planned and operated, highly redundant, and geographically diverse infrastructure can deliver. In effect, we have created for Maine’s public and non-profit sectors what Maine’s private businesses and citizens also require.

It is with over 30 years of experience advancing Internet connectivity in Maine that I look forward to the State having an entity truly empowered to create secure, reliable and affordable infrastructure to meet the present and future connectivity needs of all residents, businesses and institutions in the State. With our statewide connectivity and stakeholder relationships, Networkmaine is well-positioned and committed to being an active partner in assisting the new Connectivity Authority in its goals to ensure that all of Maine is able to take full advantage of the economic, health, educational, and other opportunities afforded through Internet connectivity.

**Jeff Letourneau  
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