



**MAINE MUNICIPAL
ASSOCIATION SINCE 1936**

60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486

1-800-452-8786 (in state)

(T) 207-623-8428

(F) 207-624-0129

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Support of

LD 1967, An Act to Support Municipal Franchise Agreements

October 25, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. My name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am submitting testimony in support of LD 1967 on behalf of the 70 municipal leaders elected by their peers to serve on MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) who establish the positions on bills of municipal interest.

Municipal leaders are supportive of the measures in LD 1967 based in their strong belief that municipalities should continue to be entrusted with the authority to work with providers to negotiate franchise terms that best meet the needs of their communities' residents. The current proposal and subsequent amendments present a solid framework with flexibility for municipalities to negotiate such agreements.

MMA is opposed to any initiative that uses a one size fits all approach and appreciate the language on page 4 line 5 – 7 requiring video service providers to enter into an agreement with a municipality before the providers may offer or provide services within that municipality.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this issue. If you have any questions about the Association's position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at rlambert@memun.org or (800) 452-8786.



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