



April 27, 2021

**Testimony of Brian Moran**

Government Affairs Director, New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association

130<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature

Joint Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

**LD 1544 - An Act Regarding Credit and Debit Card Merchant Fees**

Co-Chair Sanborn, Co-Chair Tepler, and Members of the Committee

The New England Convenience Store & Energy Marketers Association (NECSEMA) represents convenience store and gasoline retailers, independent transportation fuel distributors, and the businesses which supply them. NECSEMA members own, operate and/or supply the majority of the 1,000+ convenience stores in Maine which employ over 16,000 people.

As proposed, LD 1544 excludes the amount of state and local taxes and fees from the amount on which an interchange fee is charged for an electronic payment transaction such as a credit card or debit card transaction.

**NECSEMA supports LD 1544.** After labor costs, credit and debit card fees are the second highest expenses for Convenience Stores and Gas Station owners and operators. Responding to customer preferences during the pandemic we have further advanced offering electronic payment methods over cashless for customers. Anything that can reduce these fees means more revenue for our businesses, the community, and our employees.

Large credit card companies should not get a free ride on the back of local retailers concerning their obligations to pay state and local taxes on interchange fees. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our positions on this matter and we urge the Committee to **support passage of LD 1544.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian P. Moran".

Brian P. Moran

Director Government Affairs

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