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My name is Beth Gallie and I am the president of Maine Animal Coalition. Maine Animal Coalition is a statewide not for profit dedicated to the elimination of animal abuse and suffering through education, advocacy, and example. I am writing to encourage the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business to support LD 1551 An Act to Ban the Sale of Cosmetics that Have Been Tested on Animals.

Animal testing for cosmetics is cruel and unnecessary. There are already thousand of existing ingredients that are safe to use and superior testing methods. Over 40 countries have already passed such a ban. Over 90% of the United States cosmetics industry, seeking to do the right thing and have a level playing field, agree with such a ban. Already four other states, including California, have passed a ban and others are in the process of doing so.

As discussed at the hearing for LD 1551, if Maine were to pass LD 1551, it would have an international impact. Currently the United States federal government does not require animal testing for cosmetic products but has not join other countries in banning the use of animals. China requires animal testing. Maine's adopting the ban would help to shrink the market for cosmetics tested on animals and thereby encourage the federal government and China to do the right thing and change their laws. Please vote yes!