

Matthew Agren  
Lewiston  
LD 2150

LD 2150 testimony

Hello to the distinguished members of the Committee on Judiciary, my name is Matthew Agren from Lewiston, Maine.

I am writing to submit my testimony in opposition to LD 2150. As written undermine the rights of Mainers to petition their government, as well as crosses a dangerous constitutional line and risks empowering government actors to suppress protected speech and political criticism of them. All of this without any need for due process or any judicial oversight.

What this provides is the ability for the government to silence and keep from public events anyone who disagree with the government in power. This would be critic of a government policy, an investigative journalist looking into something, or Protestors of a policy or possible legislative action.

If as this bill claims it is needs we already have on the books the following that can handle issue and provide the due process or any judicial oversight from the court using existing - Trespass laws; Disorderly conduct statutes; and Civil harassment injunctions,

Instead this bill appears to provide the ability to restrict the public from their own government without court involvement by government bureaucrats who by their own nature are going to want to protect the status quo of how the government works. Now here is a question to you all: do any of us truly believe that bureaucratic systems truly want to examine themselves when and if there is a mission failure and find that failure and address properly?

Further more, I do expect if this is passed that the legal challenges will overturn it.. Because speech, even hostile, repetitive, accusatory, or unsettling, is protected by the Constitution of the United States. Now if there are real threats or acts of violence, then we already have existing laws that can be used to deal with them.

In closing I ask that you do not undermines the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. Instead I ask that you all look at protecting the right of all Americans to free speech, protest, and the press. We all might not agree with all speech or protest, but what is important is here in Maine and America we have the right to do so.