

Edward Miller
Hallowell

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and members of the State and Local Government Committee.

Please see the email message below regarding LD 158 that I sent to Representative Tuell on February 8th. He promptly responded that he was in agreement with my request and would be amending his bill to reflect the proposed change. Thank you.

Dear Representative Tuell:

I am writing to you about your bill to eliminate a number of boards and commissions (LD 158). One of the boards that your bill seeks to eliminate is the Tobacco Prevention and Control Advisory Council. While the Council was inactive for a number of years, it was revived last year and has been actively engaged in meeting its legislative charge for over a year through our monthly meetings and subcommittee work. I have the privilege of serving as the Council Chair. We are an active group of public health professionals with decades of experience in tobacco prevention and control here in Maine who are volunteering our time to provide advice to the Maine Center for Disease Control's Tobacco Prevention and Control Program. Later this month we will be releasing our 2020 report on our activities and recommendations. It will be distributed to the Governor and Legislature.

I retired after nearly 30 years as the Executive Director and principal lobbyist for the American Lung Association in Maine. One of my basic lobbying rules was to ALWAYS notify the sponsor prior to the public hearing of any legislation I intend to oppose. For this reason I wanted you to know that I will be submitting testimony on behalf of the Council to oppose the language in LD 158 that would eliminate the Council (22 MRSA §271, sub-§2 and Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 36-D) and ask that it be amended to remove that language from the bill. Given the inactivity of the Council prior to last year, we certainly recognize why this group was proposed for elimination. But now we are very engaged in tobacco program and policy work with the Maine CDC. I have attached a copy of the report that MCDC filed last month.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Best wishes

Ed

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Attachments area