

Dear Senator Baldacci,
Representative Matlack,
and distinguished members of the Committee on State and Local Government,

My name is Patricia Collins, and I live in Windham, Maine.

I come to you today to ask that you vote, Ought to Pass as amended on LD 608, HP0444.

It is my personal opinion the Governor of the state of Maine should be required to operate in full cooperation and accountability with the Legislative branches of government, with full Transparency to and for the good of Maine Residents and Businesses.

The Governor should be required to convene the Legislature if a declared state of emergency is to be in effect for longer than 30 days. If the Legislature does not, by a 2/3 vote in each House, vote to extend the state of emergency, the Governor may not declare a similar, subsequent state of emergency.

The Governor should also be required to convene the Legislature if, after a state of emergency is declared, an order or rule issued by the Governor is to be in effect for longer than 30 days. The Legislature must, by a 2/3 vote in each House, vote to extend the Governor's authority to extend that order or rule.

The Governor's authority should be limited in his/her authority to declare a state of emergency in a county unless the county's board of commissioners has declared that a disaster or civil emergency exists.

Thank you for your time, and I respectfully ask that you vote Ought to Pass LD 608, HP0444.

Sincerely,

Patricia Collins
Windham, Maine