

Mark Curtis
Gorham

Committee members,

It is my understanding that today is the day 14 separate bills to address the Governor's Emergency Powers will be reviewed by your committee. Today is the day for you to take a stand for our representative government. We are not a Monarchy; the Governor was elected to lead a single branch of our state government, not the entire state. Checks and balances were built into our system for a reason. The legislature is meant to be one of those balances. It has been over a year. There is no legitimate reason to prevent our representative government from being part of the decisions being made in government. The founders of our state and framers of our constitution knew that not one of us is smarter than all of us put together. Today, I ask you to act as Mainers, not members of a party. Maine needs strong leaders (that word is plural for a reason). It is time to step up and take back the power that was granted to you by your constituents. We are relying on you to make our voices heard.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to end the blanket emergency powers of the Governor and force the Governor to relinquish her grip on the people of Maine. There is more at stake here than she can consider, she simply does not have the perspective of a logger in Western Maine, a Construction worker in Southern Maine, A restaurant owner in Northern Maine, Fisherman in Down east Maine, or a Hair Dresser in Central Maine. It's not her fault, no one could consider all of those and the thousands more perspectives. That is where you and your legislative body come in. It is incumbent upon you to perform your sworn duty to represent them and uphold the Maine Constitution.

It is time to work together for ALL the people of Maine. There is a better way. Other states have done it.