

Janice Vance
Kennebunk
LD 1443

Good morning, Senator Nangle, Rep. Stover, and members of the Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Janice Vance and I am a resident of Kennebunk. I am unable to attend today's public hearing due to a work conflict, but wanted to urge you to pass LD 1443. In 2022 two Kennebunk members of our RSU 21 school board were targeted for a baseless and malicious recall petition, a process that divided our community, required 420 hours of town staff time for certification of the petition, and also resulted in legal fees that had to be borne by taxpayers. There needs to be a valid reason to initiate a recall petition against any municipal officer, which I think LD 1443 spells out quite well. This seeks a balance between allowing voters the democratic right to recall an elected official who has demonstrably violated a law or policy, while preventing spiteful and character assassination of volunteers for personal amusement or score settling. Kennebunk is not the only town in the state that has experienced this abuse. Having LD 1443 in place would protect school board members across Maine. Thank you for your consideration.