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Dear Legislators, I urge you to support LD 194 An Act To Prohibit Contributions, Expenditures and Participation by Foreign Government-owned Entities To Influence Referenda .

As you know, under Maine law, it is illegal for a foreign government to directly influence the election of a candidate for office. Unfortunately, our law doesn't extend to referendum efforts. This is a serious and detrimental loophole. There is something seriously wrong about this.

For example, this loophole has allowed Hydro-Quebec, owned solely by the government of Quebec, to funnel \$9.2 million into a political action committee to influence Maine voters, since 2019. And the amount keeps increasing.

Whether you are for, against, or haven't decided- I think you might agree that a foreign country should NOT be allowed to influence Maine citizens on a decision that affects them.

This loophole needs to be removed immediately. I urge you to vote Bill LD 194 ought to pass out of committee.

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