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To whom it may concern,

I appreciate your time in considering this piece of legislation, and reading through my testimony in SUPPORT of LD1061, An Act To Protect Minor Political Parties That Seek Official Party Status. This Act offers a fair amendment in hopes of increasing diversified representation and ideals, within our political environment by reducing barriers to political participation.

Maine, a uniquely rural sprawling State, is home to broad sweeping differences in climate, communities, and ideals - from Portland to Presque Isle, from Monson to Machias, from Aroostook to Acadia, and all those in between. We respect differences and, I believe, we grow within an environment that supports the individual exploring these unique differences, and comparing similarities. Further forcing individuals into a dichotomous political choice serves to continue to the unfortunate trend of hyperpolarization - we citizens deserve to have options, and should set in place systems which allow for more choice, thus motivating more citizens to participate in our democratic process. Forcing an individual voter to choose between two major options, while stifling the minority does a disservice to our current and future generations.

By working to protect minor political parties, and reducing barriers to access of Official Party Status, we are encouraging further political involvement and engagement, in a more democratic fashion, for all of our citizens.

Thank you for your time, and consideration.