

## **Craig A. Pendleton**

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Senator Luchini  
Representative Caiazzo  
Chairs, Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

Dear Senator Luchini, Representative Caiazzo, and members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee:

I am writing in support of LD 231, An Act to Establish Open Primaries.

I spent 40 plus years in the commercial fishing industry and if there is one thing I am fully aware of; it is our nature to be fully independent. In my role as a fisheries advocate, we often joked that ten fishermen would likely have 20 opinions.

As I have matured and become involved politically, I have both enrolled as a Democrat, and I recently ran for office as a Republican. But, truthfully, I do not find myself on either party's spectrum. A majority of my years I have been unenrolled and consider myself an Independent Centrist.

Over the past few years, I have enrolled and unenrolled three times so that I could vote in primary elections. I find this burdensome. It takes up precious time by town hall staff and an undue burden. The two party system has run its course. It is clear to me, that the sheer numbers of unenrolled voters in Maine is sending a strong message. LD 231 would allow a large number of Mainers to cast a ballot for the candidate that resonates with them the best. Sometimes it may be an R and sometimes it may be a D but it should be encouraged to allow them to make that choice. Roughly one third of Maine's registered voters are unenrolled. Wouldn't it be wise to create a system where more Mainer's could participate in the democratic process we hold so dear?

I urge you to support LD 231 and open our primaries and expand our democratic process.

Respectfully submitted,

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