



Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

LD 1802 – Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 3: Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions, a Major Substantive Rule of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

February 14, 2018

Senator Mason, Representative Luchini, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on LD 1802 – Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 3: Maine Clean Election Act and Related Provisions, a Major Substantive Rule of the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

My name is Anna Kellar. I am the Executive Director of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections.

MCCE has been the leading campaign finance organization in Maine for over twenty years, and one of the nation's most respected state-based organizations advocating for democratically funded elections. We are proud of our national reputation, but we are all Mainers, and our mission has always been with and for the people of this state.

We commend Director Wayne and Commission staff for faithfully updating the rules and procedures for the Clean Election Act and other laws under the administration of the Commission. In our experience over the last twenty years, staff have done an excellent job of ensuring that the various programs they administer are user-friendly, transparent, efficient, and true to the purposes for which they were created.

LD 1802 will give approval to major substantive rules adopted by the Commission following its November meeting. The rule changes are administrative and not controversial, intended to make the system of submitting qualifying contributions more efficient while also preserving the transparency and integrity of the qualifying process. They may also reduce the work required of municipal clerks.

We strongly support approval of the major substantive rules and passage of LD 1802.

Thank you very much. We will be present for the work session.