

# Maine Citizens for Clean Elections

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TO: The Honorable Senator Lisa T. Marraché, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Representative John L. Patrick, House Chair  
The Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

DATE: April 23, 2007

RE: **LD 1547** "An Act to Prohibit a Maine Clean Election Act Candidate from Recruiting a Primary Opponent"

## **Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) testifies in support of LD 1547.**

MCCE agrees that it is unacceptable for a Clean Election candidate to recruit an opponent. The effect of this is to generate more funds to the candidate and is inappropriately self-serving, since under the Maine Clean Election Act a candidate in a contested race receives a significantly higher distribution than one without an opponent.

The Ethics Commission bill, LD 1854 contains similar language which is broader and includes more scenarios (below). For example, one could not assist an opponent in the general election, and the prohibition extends to "agents of" the candidate.

In any case, assisting or recruiting one's opponent for the purpose of bilking the Maine Clean Election system should not be allowed, so we support the efforts to ban the practice.

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**Sec. B-6. 21-A MRSA §1125**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 542, §§3 to 5, is further amended to read:

**6-A. Assisting a person to become an opponent.** A candidate or a person who later becomes a candidate and who is seeking certification under subsection 5, or an agent of that candidate, may not assist another person in qualifying as a candidate for the same office if such a candidacy would result in the distribution of revenues under subsections 7 and 8 for certified candidates in a contested election

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*Maine Citizens for Clean Elections is a nonpartisan coalition of organizations that have worked together to pass Maine's Clean Election Act and that continue to work together to support and defend its use and the integrity of its implementation. Its members include AARP, Common Cause Maine, the League of Women Voters of Maine, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine People's Alliance and Peace Action Maine.*