



**TO:** The Honorable Senator Nancy B. Sullivan, Senate Chair  
The Honorable Representative Pamela Jabar Trinward, House Chair  
The Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs

**DATE:** April 6, 2009

**RE:** **LD 1111** "An Act to Promote Transparency and Accountability in Campaigns and Governmental Ethics," Representative Trinward, sponsor

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**Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) testifies neither for nor against LD 1111.**

We wish to comment on just on provision in LD 1111, and that is the contribution limit to political action committees (PACs).

As we have testified earlier, MCCE is in favor of limits on what individuals may give to PACs. We believe it makes sense to combine an individual limit (what an individual may give to one PAC) with an aggregate limit (what an individual may give to all PACs) so that the limit by itself does not result in a proliferation of PACs. While we prefer the more comprehensive approach and lower individual limit in LD 583, we do endorse the general idea of contribution limits to PACs.

We also ask the committee to apply any limits only to PACs that are active in candidate campaigns, since we believe that significant constitutional concerns would arise if limits were applied to other PACs. This important provision is included in LD 583.

Alison Smith, Co-chair  
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**Member Organizations**

AARP Maine, Common Cause Maine, EqualityMaine, League of Women Voters of Maine, League of Young Voters, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine Council of Churches, Maine People's Alliance/Maine People's Resource Center, Maine Women's Lobby, NAACP-Portland, Natural Resources Council of Maine, Peace Action Maine