



TO: The Honorable Louis Luchini  
The Honorable John Schneck, Co-Chairs  
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

DATE: January 8, 2020

RE: LD 1869 – An Act To Clarify the Financial Reporting Responsibilities of Political Action Committees and Ballot Question Committees

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Good afternoon Senator Luchini and Representative Schneck.

My name is John Brautigam. I'm a resident of Falmouth and I am here today on behalf of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. I am testifying in favor of LD 1869 – An Act To Clarify the Financial Reporting Responsibilities of Political Action Committees and Ballot Question Committees.

Subchapter 4 of Title 21-A has evolved over the years in response to changing campaign practices, changes in legal interpretations resulting from court decisions, and enactment of other provisions in Title 21-A. As a result, we agree that there is potential confusion among what requirements apply to "committees," "political action committees," and "ballot question committees." LD 1869 addresses that potential confusion by clarifying which provisions of section 1052-A apply exclusively to political action committees.

We are unaware of any substantive changes intended by this bill, nor does the bill summary indicate such an intent. We support the bill and the resulting clarification with the understanding that it will not result in any departure from current requirements applicable to political action committees and ballot question committees. We appreciate the Ethics Commission's work to bring forward this clarifying bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I would be happy to answer any questions from the Committee.