



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony of Maine Conservation Voters
“An Act to Require Disclosure of Campaign Funding Sources”
Before the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and the distinguished members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

My name is Beth Ahearn, Director of Government Affairs at Maine Conservation Voters, writing in opposition to LD1590, “An Act to Require Disclosure of Campaign Funding Sources” on behalf of more than 13,000 members and supporters of Maine Conservation Voters. Maine Conservation Voters works to build an inclusive democracy and to make conservation and climate action a political priority.

We have a grave concern about this legislation, namely the spectacularly burdensome reporting and notification requirements, and **urge the members to reconsider their previous vote.**

It is our belief that whether one is donating to a school, a religious institution, the Girl Scouts, or a political campaign, one makes donations to that entity with the understanding that your contribution furthers the stated goals and mission of the recipient organization. In our case, the stated mission of Maine Conservation Voters is that “Maine Conservation Voters protects Maine’s environment and our democracy by influencing public policy, holding politicians accountable, and winning elections.” Requiring an additional layer of notification and permissions for money donated to a qualifying organization to be used for political ends when those ends are clearly stated as one part of a broader mission borders on the absurd.

It is our understanding that given the notification requirements that we’ve objected to above, if a citizen was to make a donation in the last 21-days before an election, compliant organizations would be precluded from utilizing that money for its intended purpose unless we were able to affirmatively validate the purpose of the contribution.

Absent proven evidence of some truly enormous benefit that could be realized, why would we demand additional reporting, notification, and affirmative permissions for donations to organizations beyond what is currently required under federal and state law?

This legislation would overly burden organizations like my own seeking to ethically and legally engage in our democratic elections. Maine Conservation Voters strongly urges you to reconsider your previous vote and instead vote “ought not to pass” on LD 1590.

Thank you.

Beth Ahearn, Esq.
Director of Government Affairs
Maine Conservation Voters