



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

DATE: January 12, 2022

RE: LD 1782, An Act Regarding Contributing to Candidates and Political Action Committees

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Good morning Senator Luchini and Representative Caiazzo.

My name is John Brautigam. I'm a resident of Falmouth. I am here today on behalf of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections. I am testifying in support of LD 1782.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections 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 nonpartisan mission has always been with and for the people of this state.

This bill amends various provisions that were recently enacted as part of the new ban on corporate contributions. We support the clarifications in Section 1 and Section 2 of the bill as helpful for compliance and enforcement purposes. We also support Section 3 which allows for the adjustment of the SSF contribution cap on the basis of inflation.

Section 4 would loosen the restrictions on what an SSF may do. It specifies that paid staff and contractors may provide administrative and other services to the SSF. We do not object to this, but we believe it is important that this activity still be reported so that future policymakers could assess this exemption to determine whether it is serving its purpose, or whether it is a vulnerability in the statute.

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