



MAINE
Unitarian Universalist
State Advocacy Network

*"Giving voice to Unitarian
Universalist values in the
public arena through a
statewide advocacy and public
policy network anchored in our
faith and animated by its
principles."*

PO Box 8, Augusta, ME 04330
admin@muusan.org

STEERING COMMITTEE

Trudy Ferland
Co-Chair

UU Meeting House of Pittsfield

Julia Fitz-Randolph
Co-Chair

Midcoast UU Fellowship

Melanie Lanctot
Treasurer

*UU Community Church,
Augusta*

Marylyn Wentworth
Secretary

*First Parish UU Church of
Kennebunk*

Deborah Crump

*First Universalist Church of
Norway, UU*

Rev. Donna Dolham

*Allen Avenue UU Church,
Portland*

Tracy Haskell

UU Society of Bangor

Rev. Carie Johnsen

*UU Community Church,
Augusta*

Jill Linzee

Midcoast UU Fellowship

Jane Makela

*First Universalist Church,
Yarmouth*

Rev. Drew Moeller

UU Society of Bangor

Testimony Before The Joint Standing Committee on State and Local
Government On LD 2 "An Act to Require the Inclusion of Racial
Impact Statements in the Legislative Process"

February 3, 2021

Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and honorable members
of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of LD 2.

My name is Jane Makela, and I am a resident of Falmouth. I submit
this testimony on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State
Advocacy Network (MUUSAN) as a person of faith committed to our
fundamental principle of justice, equity and compassion in all human
relations.

I am proud to add the voice of our 600-member organization in
support of this legislation, which would so clearly state this
Legislature's intent that our future laws neither perpetuate past
racial disparities nor plant the seeds for new ones. We are in a pivotal
period of heightened awareness that many of our state's and nation's
laws were designed precisely to allow race-based exclusion or other
harm and that many, many more enacted since that time have simply
placed facially race-neutral systems on top of those previously laid
discriminatory foundations. In either event, the impact has been
racial disparity and disadvantage.

But we are not bound by that history to repeat it if we have the tools
at hand to advance equity for people of all races in Maine and the
will to use those tools through informed foresight rather than a
pattern of discovering harm after the fact and then trying to add
corrective patches. Effective application of such foresight takes
objective, reliable and data-based analysis—precisely what LD 2
proposes. We applaud the drafters of this bill for their measured
approach to finding a methodology that will work best for Maine and
to testing it through a pilot program before full implementation. We
think the result will be one our state can be proud of.

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was paraphrasing a New
England abolitionist minister of our faith tradition when he said that
"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."
Perhaps future generations of Mainers will see the decision

of the 130th Legislature to have legislative work viewed through a lens of racial equity, as a significant moment on that arc.

Thank you.

Jane Makela, joined by Pinny Beebe-Center of Rockland
Co-chairs of MUUSAN's Racial, Native and Immigrant Justice issue
group