



Senator Richard A. Bennett

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**Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Government Oversight Committee**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your State Senator. I am humbled by the trust you have placed in me to be a voice for you, your family, and our community in Augusta. I can assure you I will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf.

The 1st session of the 130th Legislature was different than any previous session of the Maine Legislature. Zoom meetings replaced in person committee hearings and work sessions and it was certainly a learning process for everyone. Before our adjournment on July 19th, the Legislature was able to successfully address issues of critical importance. I was proud to sponsor legislation creating the Maine Connectivity Authority which has been tasked with bringing high speed, reliable internet to all of rural Maine. I also served as the Lead Senate Cosponsor on three key pieces of legislation aimed at mitigating the harmful effects of PFAS and I currently serve as the Lead Senate Cosponsor on two others.

The 2nd Regular session began in January, and I was eager to discuss the issues important to all of you. I have heard from many of you regarding the increasing costs consumers are facing, as well as the countless ways the pandemic has affected every aspect of your life. As your State Senator I advocated for policies I believed would help Mainers during this trying time.

Perhaps the biggest piece of legislation that passed was the supplemental budget. The State had a tremendous surplus, and I wanted to see that money well spent. It was decided that most of the money should be sent back to you, the taxpayers. After all, it is your money! It was also decided that a portion should be used to provide a tax break on pensions, and other retirement funds.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you in the State Senate. I believe that if we work together, there is nothing we can't accomplish. Please feel free to contact me at 287-1505 or Richard.Bennett@legislature.maine.gov if you have comments, questions or if you would like assistance in navigating our state's bureaucracy.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Bennett".

Richard A. Bennett

Senator