



CENTRAL MAINE POWER

Kathleen Newman, Director of Government Affairs and Community Relations

LD 325 - An Act To Require Transparency in Transmission and Distribution Utility Advertising Expenditures

February 16, 2023

Testifying: Neither for nor against

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Kathleen Newman, submitting testimony neither for nor against LD 325 - An Act To Require Transparency in Transmission and Distribution Utility Advertising Expenditures.

This bill defines “related entity” and requires CMP to file an annual report with the Commission if such entities engage in advertising or political activities targeting Maine residents. CMP provides such information to the Commission annually through our Chapter 83 report which is available on the MPUC website.

The requirement that we provide information on the advertising and political activities of the 40 membership organizations to which we belong is not practicable. Though we are happy to provide the Commission with a list of those organizations, we would not be able to compel those entities to comply with that requirement.

CMP expects that this bill is actually trying to capture information about contributions our parent company has made to political action committees. Information about those contributions is readily available publicly. The company is in compliance with all related rules and has been completely transparent in regular reports to the Maine Ethics Commission.

All of CMP’s political and charitable contributions and goodwill advertising spending are made with shareholder – not ratepayer – money. We are completely transparent in reporting those below-the-line expenditures and, as a regulated entity, obligated to be comprehensively responsive to anything the Commission wants to see.

Thank you for your consideration.