

May 18, 2021

Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee
Hon. Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair
Hon. Representative Seth Berry, Chair
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

**Re: LD 1710, 'An Act To Require Prompt and Effective Use of the
Renewable Energy Resources of Northern Maine**

Dear Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of Reed & Reed, one of northern New England's largest and most versatile general contractors. Our company was founded as a bridge-building firm in 1928 by Captain Josiah W. Reed and his son Carlton Day Reed, and has prospered under four generations of family leadership to build a long-standing reputation for excellence.

At the outset, we'd like to express our appreciation to Senate President Jackson for introducing this legislation and applaud this committee's efforts to catalyze the growth of Maine's renewable energy sector. Renewable energy projects represent a significant portion of Reed & Reed's business around the country and our company stands ready to help this committee meet your energy and climate goals.

LD 1710 is the culmination of a journey that has been decades in the making. The residents and businesses of Northern Maine have been talking about building a transmission line that could finally unlock the region's generation resources for many, many years. That's because the region has tremendous wind and solar potential and economic goals that make it the ideal place to site these resources in an environmentally sensitive manner.

What has been missing – until now -- is a market signal to tell the world that Maine is ready to get serious about tapping the region's potential. LD 1710 sends that signal loudly ... clearly ... and strategically. Never before has Maine had the opportunity to mobilize such an impressive and diverse array of renewable energy resources, to engage the creativity and competition of the private sector to bring cost-effective resources online, and to do all that while planning for the future of Maine's electric grid,

which will need to balance different kinds of resources and expand for beneficial electrification.

Reed & Reed is particularly excited about the potential to serve as a partner in building Northern Maine's renewable energy future as envisioned by LD 1710. Our Woolwich-based firm has unparalleled expertise in executing complex and innovative infrastructure projects. We are also able to mobilize the best construction talent right here in Maine, to ensure that that Maine would generate and retain the maximum economic benefits like payroll and income taxes envisioned in this legislation.

I'll close out my testimony by underscoring the incredible confluence of factors that makes this the right time to pass LD 1710. First is all of you on this Committee – we have a pro-energy legislature that understands the importance of investing in cost-effective renewable resources. Maine has a governor who has made climate change a high priority, and the Maine Climate Council and the State of Maine Renewable Energy Market Assessment have pointed the way for us to act. One of the most exciting developments is the strong likelihood of a federal infrastructure bill that includes an investment tax credit for transmission projects, which will dramatically reduce the cost of the transmission line envisioned in LD 1710.

Reed & Reed stands ready to help this Committee realize this long-held dream for Northern Maine, while making sure that Maine businesses, and Maine women and men, can build this bright future for our state together with you.

Respectfully,



Jackson A. Parker

Chairman & CEO

Jackson Parker
Reed & Reed, Inc.

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