

## Testimony Neither for Nor Against LD 297 An Act to Reduce Electric Rate Increases Due to Renewable Energy Credits

Good morning, Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and distinguished members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology. I am Jeff Jones of Bangor and I run Maine Power, the Standard Offer Provider for Large Commercial and Industrial electricity customers (these are employers) for most of the state. I am testifying 'Neither for Nor Against' LD 297 An Act to Reduce Electric Rate Increases Due to Renewable Energy Credits.

Mostly, I want to thank you for passing a bill, LD 399 - An Act to Amend the Portfolio Requirements for Class II Resources, that basically replaces this bill. The high REC prices that we saw not long ago cost Maine consumers \$60 million in 2023 for little incremental benefit. Class II REC prices dropped immediately after you voted this bill out in May, saving Maine consumers something like \$40 million a year. This law went to the MPUC and has been fully implemented, just in time for this round of Standard Offer bids. If you hadn't heard, the price for residential customers in the Bangor Hydro District just went down 30% and I expect a similar result for CMP this afternoon. I can assure you that your actions had an impact on those prices for next year. Had you not acted or if the MPUC's rule had not gone into effect until after Standard Offer bids, then savings for 2024 would have been lost.

What we found out in the MPUC proceedings was that there is a lack of competition in this market, and I have some ideas that could mitigate this problem if you would like to discuss those. However, I do not want to undermine the great progress that you have made so far. Thank you for your time.

Jeff Jones, P.E.  
Managing Member  
Maine Power, LLC  
40 Harlow St, Ste 3  
Bangor, ME 04401  
[Jeff@JonesPE.com](mailto:Jeff@JonesPE.com)  
207-808-0942