

January 9, 2024

Testimony in support of LD 240, An Act to Increase Public Access to Utilities

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, Technology.

My name is Evan Goodkowsky, I live in Wiscasset, and I am submitting this testimony in support of LD 240, An Act to Increase Public Access to Utilities.

I can give you first-hand experience of how this has affected me personally. I had an apartment in Brunswick in a building with eight units. I contacted a fiber internet company that had recently expanded to my street. When I contacted them, they said they needed landlord permission. I sent a request to my property manager and attached the representative from the company to an email. It took over a month for the landlord, who lives out of state, and no one has had any contact with, to send a response to the property manager. The reply was a no, they weren't going to grant permission. At that point I replied that this negatively impacts both the value of the property and the rental by now allowing upgrade and choice of service. I was lucky, that I bothered to speak up, and they listened, but we know that won't be the case for many tenants.

Tenants need access to competition in services, otherwise there will be an easy lane for companies to take advantage of exclusivity.

I hope you support LD 240.