



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENERGY, UTILITIES AND
TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE, Date

LD 2077 An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental
and Health Effects of Natural Gas
-In Opposition-
January 23, 2024.

Good afternoon, Senate Chair Lawrence, House Chair Zeigler and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Jim Pepin, and I am a broker with Sprague Curtis Real Estate in Augusta, Maine. Founded in 1957, we are the leading, full-service real estate brokerage in the Augusta region, helping people to achieve the dream of home ownership by building relationships with one person, one real estate experience at a time.

I am dedicated to providing my clients with exceptional service and professionalism, representing buyers and sellers in all price ranges. As an Augusta native and life-long resident of the Southern Kennebec Valley area, I submit testimony against LD An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas.

This proposed policy not only doesn't make sense, but it is also dangerous. The bill's proposal to eliminate cost recovery for new gas service mains and lines will increase construction costs and exacerbate housing affordability in Maine.

The bill handicaps economic growth in communities and raises costs for growing communities, new residents, and new businesses. Any new customer or growing community will no longer benefit from socializing natural gas infrastructure costs.

Growing communities, new homes and new businesses will bear the full cost of necessary gas infrastructure if they are able to request service at all.

In conclusion, the state of Maine should continue to encourage growth and welcome new businesses and residents. This bill would discourage growth and serve to make Maine less competitive with its neighboring states.

The bad policy promoted in this bill would negatively impact my business and the work that I do. I urge your opposition to LD2077 An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas and encourage you to vote OUGHT NOT TO PASS.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Pepin".

Jim Pepin, Broker,
Sprague Curtis Real Estate