



February 20, 2024

Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Beebe-Center and Representative Salisbury and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Versant Power and Central Maine Power, we wish to provide some information neither for nor against LD 2204, "An Act to Combat Racketeering in Scheduled Drugs by Certain Organizations."

Our companies work closely with law enforcement, including by providing relevant information for enforcement matters where legally authorized. We would continue to be a resource should some of the requirements included in Sections 1-3 of this bill be adopted.

We would like to draw attention to certain provisions of LD 2204 that we believe require significant additional consideration before this bill is voted upon by the Committee. For example, some of the reporting requirements contemplated by Section 5 may be difficult or impossible for the company to comply with based on the information and technical tools available. Certain other requirements would be easier to satisfy, however, we do note that the costs associated with compliance (e.g. any reprogramming of our billing systems, etc.) are ultimately borne by customers in their electric rates. We are also concerned about the safety of our field inspectors and lineworkers. Introducing the possibility that necessary electrical installations or upgrades will result in police attention could inadvertently discourage customers from the safe use of electricity.

For these reasons, we would request that, should the committee decide to move forward with this legislation, that it convene a group of stakeholders – including the electric utilities and Public Utilities Commission – to ensure the requirements of LD 2204 can be met and would not unreasonably burden Maine’s electric ratepayers.

Thank you for your consideration and we would be happy to respond to any requests for information. Please contact James Cote on behalf of Versant Power or Kathleen Newman on behalf of Central Maine Power with any further information requests.

Sincerely,

Versant Power & Central Maine Power