



State of Maine
Office of the Public Advocate
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Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

William S. Harwood
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

Testimony in Support of

LD 2214

“An Act to LD 2214 "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025”

March 1, 2024

Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

My name is William Harwood, here today as Public Advocate, to present testimony in support of the Governor’s Recommended General Fund Supplemental Budget 2024-2025. Specifically to support its budget initiative: “Continues and makes permanent one Senior Counsel position previously continued by Financial Order 002871 F4,” as outlined on page A-50 of the Budget Document.

Pursuant to 35-A M.R.S. Ch. 17 §1702, this Senior Counsel position is essential to the overall success of the OPA and will function in planning, coordinating, and representing the interests of the Maine users of utility services, including electricity, natural gas, water and telecommunications proceedings before the Maine Public Utilities Commission, Maine Supreme Judicial Court, the Maine Legislature, and applicable federal regulatory bodies. The Senior Counsel position is funded through an assessment on utilities pursuant to 35-A M.R.S., Subsection 116.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration. We hope you agree on the need to support this important initiative. The Office of the Public Advocate will be available to answer any questions you may have or provide any additional information.



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Respectfully submitted,

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