

**Testimony before the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs re:**

***LD 210, An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027***

**February 27, 2025**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine and members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Sean Mahoney, and I am the Vice President and senior counsel of the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). I appreciate this opportunity to offer written comments in support of one area of the proposed biennial budget – Part “A” related to the Maine Governor’s Energy Office (GEO), in particular the items concerning the GEO on pages A-248 through A-249 and A-276 through A-279.<sup>1</sup>

CLF, founded in 1966, is a public interest advocacy group that works to solve the environmental and energy challenges threatening the people, natural resources and communities in Maine and across New England. In Maine for almost four decades, CLF is a member-supported organization that works to ensure that laws and policies are developed, implemented and enforced that protect and restore our natural resources; are good for Maine’s economy and environment; and equitably address the climate crisis.

The GEO is doing some of most important work on assessing how Maine can meet its clean energy and climate obligations, including how to increase the share of the state’s electricity obtained from renewable resources to 80% by 2030 and 100% by 2050<sup>2</sup>, and how to curb the state’s greenhouse gas emissions by 45% from 1990 levels by 2030 and 80% by 2050.<sup>3</sup> For example, the GEO recently issued reports on a Maine distribution system operator<sup>4</sup> and the Maine Energy Plan 2025.<sup>5</sup>

The vital work being performed by the GEO will be enhanced by the establishment of a Department of Energy Resources outside of the Governor’s Office. This will allow for a more comprehensive approach to energy system planning and allow the GEO to advance an energy system that is cleaner, more reliable and more affordable. Given the critical role that energy plays in our everyday lives and the significance of the GEO’s work on energy-related issues, elevating the GEO to a cabinet-level position is warranted.

The GEO’s Clean Energy Partnership program supports the goal of increasing clean energy jobs to 30,000 by 2030. The requested funds will help sustain this and other clean energy workforce development.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of items in LD 210 concerning the GEO.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://legislature.maine.gov/doc/11326>.

<sup>2</sup> <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/35-A/title35-Asec3210.html>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/38/title38sec576-A.html>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/2025-01/DSO%20Study%20Final.pdf>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/2025-01/Maine%20Energy%20Plan%20January%202025.pdf>.