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Maine State Legislature

Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

March 6, 2025

Testimony of Conservation Law Foundation in Support of LD 301, *An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Establish Performance-based Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms for a Public Utility in Any Proceeding*

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Energy, Utilities & Technology Committee, I am Sean Mahoney, Vice President and Senior Counsel of the Conservation Law Foundation, a member-supported nonprofit advocacy organization working to conserve natural resources, protect public health, and build healthy communities in Maine and throughout New England. CLF submits this testimony in support of LD 301, An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Establish Performance-based Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms for Public Utility in Any Proceeding.

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. For nearly four decades here in Maine, CLF has been a member-supported organization that works to ensure laws and policies are developed, implemented and enforced that protect, restore and benefit our communities and natural resources; are good for Maine's economy and environment; and equitably address the climate crisis.

CLF has long supported the use of performance-based metrics and rate-adjustment mechanisms as a means of motivating and holding accountable Maine's transmission and distribution utilities. We have done so before this Committee last year with respect to the legislation introduced by Representative Runte, LD 2172 ([CLF LD 2172 testimony](#)) and two years before that with respect to LD 1959 ([CLF LD 1959 testimony](#)). Similarly, we have testified before the PUC on numerous occasions supporting the use of performance-based metrics and rate-adjustment mechanisms. *See, e.g.,* [CLF initial comments on PUC inquiry re: PBR](#) (Docket 2020-00344) (Feb. 18, 2021); [CLF comments on straw proposal in PUC inquiry re: PBR](#) (Docket 2020-00344) (July 16, 2021); and [CLF comments on PUC rulemaking re: Ch. 320](#) (March 31, 2022).

LD 301 makes explicit the authority that we believe the PUC already has to use these tools to ensure that Maine's transmission and distribution utilities provide better service to customers and work towards Maine's clean and affordable energy goals. We urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 301.