



Testimony in Support of LD 469:

“An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity Generated in Canada via High-impact Electric Transmission Lines”

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and the distinguished members of the Committee On Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Harris Van Pate, and I serve as policy analyst for Maine Policy Institute. Maine Policy is a free market think tank, a nonpartisan, non-profit organization that advocates for individual liberty and economic freedom in Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on LD 469, “An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity Generated in Canada via High-impact Electric Transmission Lines,” and this critical energy affordability and reliability issue for Maine residents and businesses.

Ensuring Maine Receives Its Fair Share of Energy

Maine consistently faces some of the highest electricity rates in the nation, placing an undue financial burden on families, small businesses, and manufacturers. At the same time, energy transmission projects have historically treated Maine as a mere conduit, delivering electricity to other states while our residents see few direct benefits.

LD 469 addresses this imbalance by ensuring that at least 50% of the electricity transmitted through high-impact electric transmission lines in Maine is allocated to Maine consumers. This requirement guarantees that our state receives tangible economic and energy security benefits rather than simply serving as a pass-through for power destined for other states.

The Benefits of LD 469

- **Lowering Energy Costs for Mainers:** By securing a guaranteed share of affordable hydroelectric power from Canada, LD 469 ensures that Maine ratepayers directly benefit from reduced electricity costs, providing much-needed relief to households and businesses.
- **Enhancing Energy Security:** Maine should not be an afterthought in regional energy planning. This bill ensures that Maine has a stable and reliable energy supply by prioritizing our access to transmitted energy.
- **Supporting Economic Growth:** High electricity costs deter business investment and economic expansion. By guaranteeing a portion of affordable energy for Maine, this bill makes our state a more attractive place for businesses to grow and create jobs.
- **Reducing Carbon Emissions:** Hydropower is a clean, renewable energy source that aligns with Maine’s environmental goals without imposing additional



financial burdens on consumers, like net energy billing and similar renewable policy schemes.

- **Fairness for Maine Residents:** Historically, large-scale transmission projects have benefited out-of-state consumers while offering little in return to Maine residents. LD 469 corrects this inequity by ensuring Maine receives a proportional share of the electricity passing through our state.

Why This Reform Is Necessary

Maine has long struggled with energy policies that drive up consumer costs while offering minimal direct benefits. While projects like the New England Clean Energy Connect (NECEC) have been promoted as beneficial for the region,¹ they have largely bypassed Maine ratepayers in favor of customers in other New England states.² LD 469 ensures that future transmission projects prioritize Maine residents by reserving at least 50% of the transmitted electricity for in-state use.

This policy is not only fair but also essential for energy equity. Maine communities should not bear large-scale energy transmission's environmental and economic impacts without receiving a proportional share of the benefits. By enshrining this requirement into law, we ensure that any high-impact electric transmission project passing through Maine provides real value to our residents and businesses.

Conclusion

LD 469 represents a crucial step toward energy fairness and economic sustainability for Maine. By guaranteeing that at least 50% of the electricity transmitted through our state is allocated to Maine consumers, this bill strengthens our energy security, reduces costs, and ensures that Maine residents are not left behind in regional energy agreements.

Maine Policy Institute urges this committee to pass LD 469 and ensure that Maine finally receives its fair share of the energy it helps to transmit. Thank you for your time and consideration.

¹ <https://www.necleanenergyconnect.org/>

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<https://www.pressherald.com/2025/01/27/mass-regulators-say-neccec-delays-in-maine-drove-up-costs-by-more-than-500m/#:~:text=ratepayers%20to%20pay%20extra%20%24512,western%20part%20of%20the%20state.>