

**Testimony before the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology in opposition to
LD 469, *An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity Generated in Canada via High-impact
Electric Transmission Lines***

March 11, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Phelps Turner, and I am a Senior Attorney and the Clean Grid Director at Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). I appreciate this opportunity to testify in opposition to LD 469, *An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity Generated in Canada via High-impact Electric Transmission Lines*.

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.

LD 469 is Factually and Legally Flawed

Sections 1, 2 and 3 of LD 469 ignore the fact that Maine is part of an interconnected, regional electricity grid over which electrons flow freely. Thus, there is no way to ensure that 50%, or any other percentage, of the electricity delivered by a high-impact electric transmission line into the state will be "consumed within the state." Likewise, Sections 2 and 3 refer to delivery of electricity "through this State," but this phrase is untethered from reality: once electrons enter the regional electricity grid, there is no way to control whether they travel to or through Maine.

Sections 1 and 2 of LD 469 are also flawed because there is no rational basis in Maine law or policy for the "local consumption standard" or related requirements in these sections, and none is provided in the bill. They are illogical and arbitrary. Likewise, there is no rational basis in Maine law or policy for adding these requirements to the criteria for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN), nor is there any law or policy nexus between the "local consumption standard" and the existing CPCN requirements.

Section 4 of LD 469 is flawed because it seeks to compel transmission and distribution (T&D) utilities to take actions that have no nexus to their existing obligations. The requirement to submit a report describing "efforts to collaborate with state and local economic development agencies to encourage the expansion of businesses in the State or the relocation of businesses to the State" has no rational connection to the obligation of T&D utilities to furnish safe, reasonable and adequate facilities and service.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to LD 469.