

**Testimony before the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology in support of
LD 596, *Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission
Infrastructure***

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 support of LD 596, *Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure*.

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.

In 2021, the Maine Legislature established the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program under 35-A M.R.S. § 3210-I and expressly indicated that the program was established to “remove obstacles to the use of and to promote development of the substantial renewable energy resources in northern Maine.”¹ The Legislature ordered the Maine Public Utilities Commission to administer the program, and to ensure that such administration “accounts for and is designed to advance the renewable energy and climate policies and goals of the state.”²

By providing approval for the construction and operation of a high-impact transmission line and appurtenant facilities to interconnect renewable energy resources in northern Maine, LD 596 complies with and advances the law and public policy set forth by the Legislature in 35-A M.R.S. § 3210-I. In so doing, LD 596 also facilitates compliance with the law and public policy outlined by the Legislature in Maine’s renewable portfolio standard under 35-A M.R.S. § 3210³ and Maine’s climate and emissions reduction policy under 38 M.R.S. § 576-A.⁴ Further, LD 596 does not alter or negate existing state permitting requirements for high-impact transmission lines.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 596.

¹ 35-A M.R.S. § 3210(1), <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/35-A/title35-Asec3210-I.html>.

² *Id.*

³ 35-A M.R.S. § 3210, <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/35-A/title35-Asec3210.html>.

⁴ 38 M.R.S. § 576-A, <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/38/title38sec576-A.html>.