



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony in support of LD596, *Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure*

March 12, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and distinguished member of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Cathy Breen. I am the Director of Government Affairs at Maine Conservation Voters (MCV), a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters that is building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I'm speaking in support of LD596, *Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine*.

MCV's support of this bill rests on two foundational and long-standing priorities:

1. Our commitment to tackling the climate crisis by supporting a just transition to renewable energy in Maine;
2. Our commitment to making clean energy available to all, regardless of economic status.

As Maine looks to advance the climate goals set out in *Maine Won't Wait 2.0*, our energy infrastructure must be a critical focus. Electrifying our largest emitting sectors, transportation and heating/cooling, will require a huge investment in our grid infrastructure to handle increased load and facilitate more renewables. This, in turn, requires building more electric transmission as quickly and affordably as possible. In a sparsely populated state like Maine, the private sector will go only as far as their profit margins will take them, resulting in under-capitalized service areas in much of Aroostook County and other rural counties. Without capacity to transmit energy to the ISO-New England grid, efforts to develop local renewable energy generation have been destined to fail.

LD596 simply clears a legislative path to *allow* energy transmission infrastructure in northern Maine. It sets up nothing. It names nothing. This legislation could potentially connect far flung renewable resources to the ISO-New England grid, keeping energy generation and transmission dollars in Maine someday in the future. LD596 lets us start these long-term conversations.

For these reasons, MCV encourages you to vote Ought to Pass on LD596. Thank you for your consideration.