



Dear Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

I come before you today with a sense of urgency—a feeling that I hope will resonate with each of you as deeply as it does with me. Our state, our communities, our families and our businesses are facing an energy crisis like no other. Every month, families struggle to pay their electric bills. Small businesses are closing their doors at an increasing rate, in part because they are unable to bear the crippling weight of Maine’s energy costs, which are among the highest in the country. The time for action is NOW, and the solution is to abandon our old way of thinking, and to consider alternatives that we aren’t currently using. We need to explore the option of nuclear (and hydro).

We cannot continue to pretend that the status quo is sustainable. The energy prices we are paying right now are unsustainable. They’re unsustainable for our families, for our businesses, for our schools, and for our hospitals. The costs of living keep rising while wages stay stagnant, and the gap between what we can afford and what we need to survive grows wider by the day. My personal power bill for my small house has gone from under \$200 to over \$400 in the last year and I spoke to a business owner whose power bill went from \$6,000/month to over \$15,000/month. Our current solution is not working.

And yet, nuclear energy stands before us as a perfectly legitimate tool that we aren’t willing to consider. It is like having a woodstove, wood and matches in the cold Maine winter, but being unwilling to use it for heat because of fear.

Nuclear power is safe. It is reliable. It is the key to reducing these astronomical energy prices that are suffocating us. I understand the hesitation, I do, but we must look beyond the fear. We must look at the facts.

Nuclear power generates vast amounts of electricity with an extremely low environmental footprint. Nuclear energy is among the cleanest forms of energy production. It doesn’t require the land and water resources that other renewable sources demand. It works whether it is windy or not, it works whether it is day or night, it doesn’t get snow covered and the technology has advanced since our Maine Yankee days. We have the technology. We have the science. It is time for us to explore what it could look like in Maine.

Imagine a future where businesses can thrive without being crushed under the weight of skyrocketing power bills. Imagine families no longer having to choose between heating their homes in the winter and buying food for their children. This is the promise of nuclear energy. You can be the lever of change to make this happen. This is not a vote that immediately allows nuclear energy, it is a vote that allows us to explore if nuclear is the right choice for Maine.

We don’t have the luxury of time. Every day, we are sinking deeper into this quagmire of high energy costs. We are at a crossroads. We can continue to ignore the solution right in front of us, or we can take the bold action required to secure a better future for everyone in this state. For the sake of our economy, our environment, and our people, I urge you to please vote “ought to pass” on LD 342, LD 343, and LD 601.

The time is now. We cannot afford to wait.

Sincerely,

Robert Wessels

Robert Wessels
Maine Gubernatorial Candidate
VoteRobertWessels.com - WesselsForGovernor@Gmail.com