

Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

From: Ezra Sassaman, Advocacy Coordinator, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: March 18, 2025

Re: LD 633: An Act Concerning the Restoration of Electricity During Emergencies for Certain Medically Vulnerable Individuals Who Rely on Electronic Medical Apparatuses

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is Ezra Sassaman. I live in Bar Harbor and represent Maine Climate Action Now! (MCAN), a coalition of fifteen nonprofit organizations from across Maine united by a desire to progress our state forward.

Maine Climate Action Now! recognizes increasing storms and power outages hit some people and areas harder than others. Especially in a highly rural state with a high elderly population, we need to better ensure all Mainers are protected from these outages. As it stands, Mainers who rely on electricity for essential medical equipment are at risk.

We support LD 633 because it requires investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to identify these customers and include them in their emergency response and outreach plans. This legislation is important because weather-based power outages are increasing across the country and Maine has been highlighted as a state particularly affected by this issue.¹²

As the nation saw with Ida in 2021, power outages are often as large a risk to vulnerable populations as storms themselves. Additionally, when people don't have access to electricity, many medical apparatuses don't work, and this can have deadly impacts. With this background, we want to ensure an extended power outage does not become a lethal situation for those in Maine reliant on electrically-powered medical equipment.

For the reasons listed above, the MCAN coalition encourages you to vote ought-to-pass on LD 633. Thank you.

¹Matthew Brown et al. "[Storms batter aging power grid as climate disasters spread](#)". *AP News*. April 5, 2022. Accessed March 18, 2025.

²Emily Santom "[Surge in weather-related power outages in U.S., Maine amidst rising severe weather trends](#)". *WGME*. April 30, 2024. Accessed March 18, 2025.