

Testimony of Ashley Luszczki
Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government
In Support of L.D. 1037, An Act to Lower the Energy Burden of Residents by
Advancing Climate Change Goals
March 24, 2025

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Ashley Luszczki. I am testifying on behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, representing a network of 5,000+ small to large businesses. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of L.D. 1037, An Act to Lower the Energy Burden of Residents by Advancing Climate Change Goals.

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce supports a healthy environment – one that protects our natural resources, people, and economy. With the challenges posed by a changing climate, many Maine businesses are already taking proactive steps, including investing in energy efficiency, developing innovative clean technologies, and transitioning to renewable energy sources. While we recognize the value of the Climate Action Plan’s goals and recommendations, it is equally important that Maine’s climate strategy balances affordability and reliability for businesses and individual consumers.

A strong economy and a sustainable environmental future must go hand in hand. Maine’s businesses, particularly manufacturers, food processors, and other energy-intensive industries, depend on a reliable and cost-effective energy supply to remain competitive. Renewable energy sources – a key component of the Climate Action Plan – play a critical role in reducing emissions, but many do not currently provide affordable and consistent baseload power, which is essential for large-scale industrial operations. As the state transitions to an 80 percent renewable energy portfolio by 2030 and moves toward 100 percent by 2050, we encourage a thoughtful approach to ensure this shift doesn’t inadvertently increase costs and negatively impact Maine’s economic competitiveness.

Affordability is key – not only for businesses, but for households across Maine. The Chamber supports L.D. 1037 because it takes an important step – balancing Maine’s climate goals while working to lower the energy burden of Mainers.

We appreciate your consideration and urge you to support L.D. 1037.