

To: Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
From: Jackson Chadwick, Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025



RE: Testimony in support of L.D. 995: “An Act to Provide Funding for Low-Income Electric Ratepayer Assistance”

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

My name is Jackson Chadwick, and I am the Advocacy Director for Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ). We advocate for a just transition from fossil fuels towards a more sustainable future where Maine youth and young adults can prosper. Our organization is 500+ members strong, consisting of high school and college students, environmental activists, rural leaders, and young adults entering and contributing to the Maine workforce.

On behalf of MYCJ, I’m testifying in support of L.D. 995, which would provide a one-time funding allocation of \$7.5 million for low-income electric ratepayer assistance. While it’s our view that L.D. 995 is an appropriate short-term solution, we ask the Committee and the Legislature to advance long-term policies this session that help protect electric ratepayers and decrease the energy burden on low-income households.

Rising electricity costs in Maine are attributable to New England’s long-standing reliance on fossil fuels like natural gas and the high costs of importing electricity from outside the region¹. In the coming years, Maine must decrease its reliance on importing electricity and increase energy independence by accelerating the clean energy transition. This shift will help lower electricity costs for Maine residents and shield the state from volatile fossil fuel energy markets.

Maine Youth for Climate Justice respectfully asks you to vote “ought to pass” on L.D. 995.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,

¹ ISO New England: “ISO-NE publishes amounts, sources of electric energy used to meet demand in 2024.” <https://isonewswire.com/2025/01/28/iso-ne-publishes-amounts-sources-of-electric-energy-used-to-meet-demand-in-2024/#:~:text=New%20England%20is%20historically%20a,GWh%20or%204%25%20of%20NEL>.