



Testimony in Support of LD 905
An Act to Clarify the Process to Transfer Funds Resulting from the Expiration of Unused Kilowatt-hour Credits to
Be Used to Provide Assistance to Low-income Electricity Customers
March 24, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here on behalf of Versant Power in support of LD 905. We thank both the Public Utilities Commission and Senator Lawrence for bringing this legislation forward.

LD 905 is a straightforward piece of legislation that proposes two primary administrative changes to the program that directs the value of expired unused kilowatt-hour credits to the benefit of the Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP) as administered by the Maine State Housing Authority.

The first change is to extend the date by which the value of these expired must be remitted from January 1 to April 1 of each year. The second change would be to direct utilities to remit the value of these expired credits directly to the Maine State Housing Authority instead of to the Public Utilities Commission. Additionally, this change would require utilities to report the value of these expired credits to the Public Utilities Commission.

Versant supports this legislation for two primary reasons:

- 1) Time is needed at the end of each year to reconcile the total amount and value of expired credits. The current requirement that the value of credits expiring as late as December 31 be remitted on January 1 is administratively infeasible.
- 2) The Maine State Housing Authority (MSHA) currently administers the LIAP program for all utilities. The current system requires money flow from the utilities to the MPUC and then to MSHA. Allowing the utilities to remit money directly to MSHA is more efficient for all parties. We understand that the MPUC is interested in retaining visibility into this process and support the provision in this legislation that requires reporting of these expired credits to the Commission. We note that this is in line with current Versant Power practice and do not believe that this requirement would be unduly burdensome.

Thank you for your consideration, and we would be pleased to provide additional information for the work session at your request.

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