



**Testimony of Marge Kilkelly on Behalf of  
the Maine Council on Aging to the  
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**

**In Favor of LD 1080 - An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities  
from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on a Residential  
Customer's Income**

Submitted April 2, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

My name is Marge Kilkelly, and I am a Policy Consultant for the Maine Council on Aging (MCOA) which is a broad, multidisciplinary network of over 140 organizations, businesses, municipalities, and older community members working to ensure we can all live healthy, engaged, and secure lives with choices and opportunities as we age at home and in community settings. The MCOA is a unifying force across sectors that is creating a new narrative about aging and older people in Maine with the goal of building local, statewide, and national support for the systemic changes needed to support our new longevity.

**I am testifying in favor of LD 1080 An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on a Residential Customer's Income.**

Discriminatory practices come in all shapes and forms. They impact low and moderate income people and families hardest as they struggle to afford food, housing, transportation and health care. That struggle and those challenges do not automatically make a person a credit risk or a risk to the utility.

Older Mainers might relocate to be closer to family, downsize to have less home maintenance, or want to be closer to chosen activities. In many cases their income is significantly less than in their working years. They should not be assumed to be a credit risk and required to pay a large deposit just to get new utility services.

It is simple, imposing a deposit that could be as much as two months anticipated utility bill adds unnecessary expense at a time of transition.

This bill applies a common sense, non-judgmental standard to utility deposits. New customers may not be charged a deposit unless proof that the customer is a credit risk or might damage the property of the utility.

I urge you to act in support of LD 1080.

Thank you for your consideration.