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Maine State Legislature
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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY, UTILITIES, AND TECHNOLOGY

-- IN SUPPORT --

LD 1160 (HP 765) AN ACT TO PROHIBIT OWNERSHIP OF 6 PERCENT OR
MORE OR CONTROL OF A PUBLIC UTILITY BY AN ENTITY PROVIDING AID
TO A FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION

April 9, 2025

Thank you Mr. Chairman, Madam Chairwoman, and honorable colleagues.

I am Nathan Carlow, I hail from the town of Buxton, Maine, and I am pleased to represent the people of Buxton and Hollis in the Maine State Legislature.

I want to thank the committee for considering my testimony virtually. Also, I want to assure the committee that my testifying remotely is by no means an evasion of my duty to provide the committee with sweet treats, as is the custom when a former committee member returns to provide testimony. I pledge to make it up to all of you at a later date.

Today, I am before the committee to present L.D. 1160, *An Act to Prohibit Ownership of 6 Percent or More or Control of a Public Utility by an Entity Providing Aid to a Foreign Terrorist Organization*.

This legislation prohibits an entity that has provided material aid or comfort to a foreign terrorist organization—as designated by the United States Secretary of

State—from owning 6% or more of, or otherwise exercising control over, a public utility or its parent company in the state of Maine. If the Public Utilities Commission, following a thorough investigation and an adjudicatory proceeding, finds a violation of this provision, the Commission would be required to order divestiture.

This is a prudent and measured approach to safeguard our critical infrastructure. Public utilities are the backbone of our communities—they heat and power our homes, provide access to clean drinking water, and support emergency services. It is essential that these entities remain free from the influence of organizations or individuals whose actions may be contrary to the safety and security of the Maine people.

By placing this authority in the hands of the Public Utilities Commission, the bill ensures that any determination will be based on careful review of the facts and established legal standards. The Commission is well-equipped to conduct these reviews, and the adjudicatory process ensures due process is afforded to all parties.

The bill also aligns with federal policy by relying on the Secretary of State's designation of foreign terrorist organizations, providing a clear and consistent standard.

It is also important to underscore what this bill does not do.

It does not make sweeping or arbitrary restrictions, but it does take a firm and responsible stand where our national security and public trust are concerned.

This legislation is forward-looking. It does not impose retroactive penalties, nor does it interfere with the day-to-day operations of our existing public utilities that are in full compliance with state and federal law. The bill includes a clear

investigatory and adjudicatory process, which ensures that any concerns about ownership or control are addressed carefully and deliberately—not hastily.

At present, there is no indication that any of our utilities fall under the scope of this bill. This is not a response to a known or active threat, but rather a thoughtful measure to prevent future vulnerabilities. It puts guardrails in place should circumstances change, and it provides the Public Utilities Commission with the authority to act if and when necessary.

By taking this preventative approach, we help ensure that Maine remains a safe, secure, and responsible steward of its infrastructure—without causing disruption or uncertainty for utilities that are operating in good faith.

This measured policy is exactly the kind of work that helps build public trust—not only in our utilities, but in the regulatory institutions overseeing them.

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