



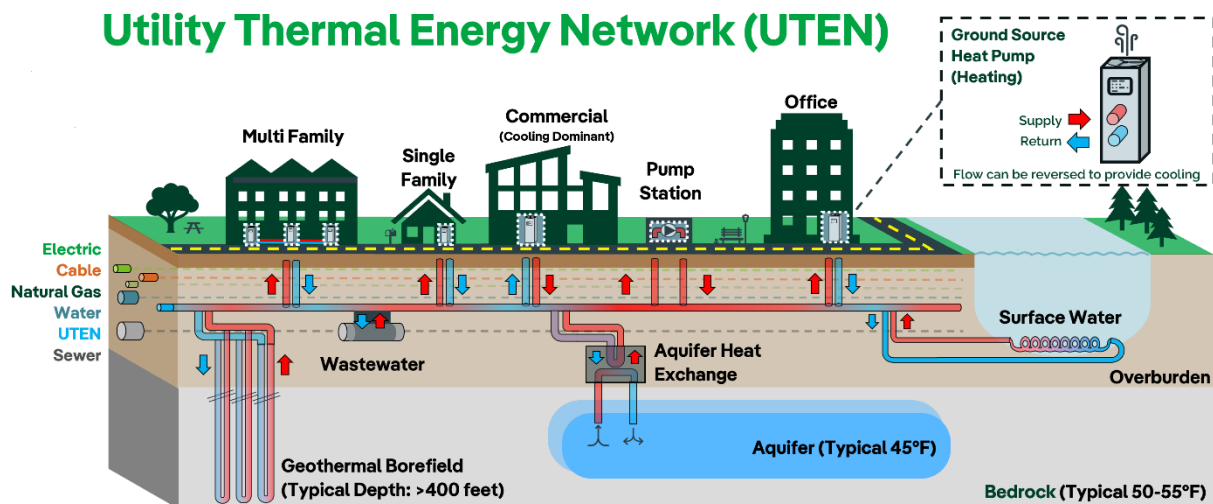
Testimony in Support of L.D. 1619, “Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study Pathways
for Creating a Thermal Energy Networks Program in Maine”

April 24, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Committee Members:

My name is Seth Berry, I am Executive Director of Our Power, and I live in Bowdoinham. Our Power is a Maine nonprofit advocating statewide for energy democracy. We support this resolve because it has the potential to create more affordable, resilient, cleaner energy systems in parts of Maine. Done right, they may create greater opportunities for local control, and provide gas utilities and their skilled employees with a way to transition.

A TEN or thermal energy network is not always “zero emissions,” as the sponsor’s amendment suggests, but it can be. We would suggest “low emissions” be the phrase used in the definition.



Graphic by NYSEG

As the above diagram shows, a TEN requires the collaboration of multiple entities: housing and business owners, utilities, natural resource managers, and others. It is a challenge worth taking on. Ownership and control will be vital considerations. This resolve is a well-crafted first step towards designing a policy suited to Maine. We urge you to support it.

Thank you, and I am happy to answer any questions.

Seth Berry