

To: Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, Maine State
Legislature
From: Jackson Chadwick, Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Date: Thursday, May 1, 2025



RE: Testimony in Support of L.D. 861: “An Act to Prohibit the Public
Utilities Commissioners and Public Advocate from Employment with
Regulated Entities and Certain Government Agencies Following Service”

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

Good morning. My name is Jackson Chadwick, and I am the Advocacy Director for Maine Youth for
Climate Justice (MYCJ) and a resident of Bangor. Our statewide organization of 500 youth advocates
for bold climate policy and a just transition from fossil fuels to sustainable, renewable energy. MYCJ
connects youth with the Maine Legislature through educational programming and events, such as the
Youth Day of Action on April 17th, which attracted over 150 youth to Augusta.

On behalf of MYCJ, I am testifying today in support of L.D. 861. This legislation addresses
accountability and fairness within and outside regulatory agencies. We view this bill as an effort to
prevent “regulatory capture” or instances of regulators becoming unduly influenced by the
corporations and industries they are responsible for regulating.

L.D. 861 limits the 12-month post-term employment of the Public Utilities Commissioners and the
Public Advocate, ensuring they are not employed by the entities they regulate or oversee during their
tenure. This will reduce the potential incentive for regulators to make decisions that are not in the
best interest of the Maine public while serving in their government roles.

Amid heightened skepticism and distrust in our government institutions, Maine’s youth, especially
climate activists, understand the necessity of preventing corruption and self-interest. Energy justice is
a critical aspect of climate justice. We view energy justice as a means to make our energy system
fairer and more equitable for consumers, and holding both government and private entities
accountable to the public they serve is a vital part of that. Unless regulators resist the influence of
private and fossil fuel interests, energy justice remains unattainable.

Therefore, MYCJ respectfully asks you to support L.D. 861 to promote accountability, fairness, and
transparency. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,