

March 6, 2025

Acadia Center testimony in support of L.D. 1868, “An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Upgrading Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws”

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

I am Senior Advocate and Maine Program Director for the Acadia Center, an organization that advocates for bold, achievable solutions for a clean energy future. Acadia Center supports this bill because Maine’s continuing dependance on fossil fuels will result in Mainers paying more for energy. Maine currently sends more than \$4 billion out of state every year to pay for imported oil and gas – money that could be spent creating Maine clean energy jobs instead.

Moreover, the effects of burning fossil fuels are felt everywhere in Maine. Maine used to be a place where massive, destructive storm events were rare, but not anymore. Massive, unprecedented storms and rising sea levels now destroy our fishing infrastructure and warming ocean waters bring new threats to fisheries. Our electric utilities are incurring massive storm response costs and passing those costs along to already overwhelmed ratepayers.

Fortunately, Mainers have not had their heads in the sand. Through good planning and investment, Maine has created a Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that has already created \$20 million in ratepayer benefits, and 15,000 Maine people already work in the clean energy industry. But much remains to be done if the next generations of Mainers are to be given an opportunity to live in a clean, affordable world, and where Maine businesses can thrive.

This bill gives us the tools to help achieve a clean energy future. Fortunately, Mainers, the Maine Climate Council, and the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) have charted a sustainable and affordable path for the future: 100% clean, homegrown energy. L.D. 1868 updates renewable and clean energy procurement laws by directing the GEO to conduct competitive solicitations to procure renewable energy through long-term contracts. Further, the bill gives the MPUC the tools it needs to coordinate with other states so that transmission infrastructure can meet the growing demands of renewable energy. In sum, this bill gives Maine helpful tools it needs to help provide Mainers with reliable energy prices, and a livable future.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony, and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

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