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Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Committee, my name is Andrew Roberts Van Alstyne and I live in South Berwick. Thank you for the chance to testify today in support of the sponsor's amendment to L.D. 1963.

As an HR professional, I deal with people. Some are more ethical than others, some express a stronger desire to take morally right actions. The hardest issues I work with are when a line employee raises a concern that seeks to hold a manager accountable. Any employee who speaks up is afraid. I see it weekly, and I think Maine has a chance to be better.

Here are a few reasons I support this proposal.

Reason: Whistleblowers and their families are afraid. Maine whistleblower Alicia Wilbur says she was told by everyone around her: **"You will never work in this industry again. No one will hire a whistleblower."** Scary stories about energy companies abound: the older stories of Karen Silkwood and Erin Brockevitch, the very recent stories of Lindsey Gulden and Tyler Ferhman. A Maine public advocate and legislator also recently received calls from would-be whistleblowers, but could not help the callers under current law.

Reason: Where there is smoke, there may be fire. **The greatest corporate scandals of the last 35 years involve whistleblowers and energy companies**. PG&E poisoned children and families with Chromium 6, while gaslighting them to avoid discovery. Enron made billions -- in the words of one employee, by ripping off low-income grandmothers. First Energy spent \$60 million to bribe politicians to raise rates, bail out their nuclear plants, and pad their profits.

Reason: High stakes. A utility is a monopoly with a big impact on our pocketbook and our planet. Customers cannot shop elsewhere. If a utility can avoid detection while cooking the books, slow-walking the interconnection of renewables, or taking shortcuts on gas line safety or emissions, **profits may soar while customers suffer**.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to support the sponsor's amendment and to help Maine lead the nation by adopting this proven model for corporate accountability.

Thank you,

Full Name