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Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Committee, my name is Molly Wunderli, and I live in Bangor. Thank you for the chance to testify today in support of the sponsor's amendment to L.D. 1963.

Here are a few reasons I support this proposal:

First, simply put, we live in a society in which such legislation is essential to the interests of public health and safety. Energy companies have a long and sordid legacy of deliberate disregard to public health, safety, and interest. Recent history has shown us that these companies have—and will continue to do so without meaningful oversight—used underhanded and illegal means to enrich themselves and intimidate and harm those who would seek to expose their actions. Children and families have been poisoned (PG&E), low-income elders have been scammed (ENRON), and politicians have been bribed while consumers have been extorted (First Energy).

Second, this proposed program is designed to succeed: it is based off of federal models that have been successfully utilized for decades. The formula utilized by these successful federal programs, from the DOJ's working to protect taxpayers to the NHTSA's protecting vehicle occupants, is simple and sound: anonymous reporting, potential for a reward, and publicity to ensure the program's existence is known. The UWP is not reinventing the wheel; it is simply ensuring that Maine has at its disposal the means to protect Mainers from unscrupulous energy companies.

Finally, Maine currently is not protecting its residents from such companies. For the last *decade*, Maine has had the shameful honor of being the state with the lowest customer satisfaction ranking for its two investor-owned electric utilities. Rates have sky-rocketed and reliability has drastically dropped over the past two decades. Mainers, along with everyone in this country, deserve access to safe, reliable, affordable, non-polluting utilities. The time is now for passing this amendment and protecting the people over corporate profiteering.

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,

Molly Wunderli