

Ann Morrill
South Portland
LD 1963

Senator Laurence, Representative Sachs, and members of the committee: My name is Ann Morrill, and I live in South Portland. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of the Sponsors Amendment to LD 1963. In the many years that my husband and I have lived in our home, we have expended substantial time, money, and energy making our home more energy efficient, in line with our belief in the importance of climate issues. We are now fully electrified, including 100 % of the energy needed to keep us warm in Maine's winters and to fuel our EV. This increases, for us, the vital importance of electricity reliability. Yet, over the years there have been a number of concerns related to utility reliability, including both electrical and gas companies. These would include, though are not limited to, speed and costs for solar interconnections, and safe installation of new gas lines. While these monopoly and investor owned corporations must serve their customers, their first obligation is always to maximize and return profit to the stockholders who own the company. While Maine has a strong PUC to protect the public's interests, they may not always have the same information to work from that the companies have. And being appointed by elected governors always leaves open the possibility of partisan political bias and regulatory capture. For these reasons, I believe a strong whistleblower protection provision would support and augment the public's need for utility reliability and integrity. The Sponsors Amendment would thus well serve Maine's public needs and so in conclusion I would strongly encourage the committee to adopt this proven model for corporate accountability. Thank you and best regards, Ann Morrill