



**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE
JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES & TECHNOLOGY**

May 15, 2025

ought to pass

LD 1792 An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of L.D. 1792.

Poland Spring® has a history of more than 175-years of stewardship in Maine. We help to conserve 6000 acres of land surrounding our 10 spring sites and 3 bottling plants. Currently, our solar field installation is nearing completion at our Hollis plant where also we are working to help the endangered grassland sparrow by creating new meadowlands. We take tremendous pride in the Poland Spring® brand, honor the hard work of our 900 Maine employees, thoughtfully source our water locally and strive to do good and support the communities where we operate – Hollis, Kingfield and Poland.

The Maine Public Utilities Commission's decision in Docket No. 2024-00137 will significantly increase Poland Spring's electricity costs on July 1st. We estimate that our facilities in Maine will see nearly \$1 million in additional electric costs over the next year under the stranded cost rate design approved by the Commission, creating major unbudgeted rate shock at a time of substantial economic uncertainty. As additional stranded costs are created in the coming years by the net energy billing program or other new state-sponsored renewable energy projects, the cost impact on our local operations will become more severe and could make it challenging to justify new investments in Maine.

The stranded cost rate design that was included in the uncontested stipulation filed in Docket No. 2024-00137 on January 24, 2025 is a fair, reasonable approach for Central Maine Power Company to collect stranded costs from its ratepayers. Poland Spring supports Maine's decarbonization efforts; the stipulation's rate design solution would allow Maine to continue expanding renewable energy throughout the state while supporting local manufacturing and jobs.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Donohue
Vice President, Government Affairs



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LD 1792

Submitting testimony only - attached. Thank you.