

David Gibson
Morrill
LD 1963

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Energy,
Utilities and Technology Committee,

Good afternoon,

My name is David Gibson; I am a resident of Morrill. I am testifying in support of LD
1963: An Act to Protect and Compensate Public Utility Whistleblowers

I have worked in the efficiency and clean energy sector for more than 15 years in
multiple states. I have worked for non-profit energy education organizations, a
for-profit renewable energy company, and for the Nevada Governors Office of
Energy. In these various roles, I have seen multiple utilities engage in questionable
practices. Some practices are wasteful of ratepayer funds, others squandered resources
intended to support efficiency programs that would reduce energy consumption and
save residents and businesses on their energy costs. Utilities have the ability to slow
or block renewable energy projects, creating a dynamic that prevents many businesses
from making complaints for fear of retribution. While I have not witnessed anything
that would rise to the level of meeting the Whistleblower requirements, I wouldn't be
surprised if the conditions exist.

As a resident and utility ratepayer in Maine, I support every opportunity to hold these
corporations accountable and ensure that funds are not being stolen from customers
across the state. There is no one with better information than employees and
contractors, and they should be protected if they have information to bring forward.

Thank you for your time. Please support LD1963, as amended by the sponsor.

Thank you,

David Gibson, Morrill