



Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

May 15, 2025

RE: LD 1949, An Act Regarding Energy Fairness

Dear Chair Lawrence, Chair Sachs, and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee:

My name is Ania Wright and I am Maine Audubon's Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation nonprofit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1949: *An Act Regarding Energy Fairness*.

At Maine Audubon, we know that the climate crisis is one of the greatest threats to wildlife in our state. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events are already altering habitats and migration patterns for countless bird and animal species. If we hope to protect Maine's loons, warblers, Brook Trout, and other iconic species, we must accelerate our transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.

The transition must be fair. LD 1949 is a critical step forward not just for the environment, but for energy justice. It helps to strengthen protections for vulnerable Mainers, ensure transparency and accountability from utilities, and remove costly barriers to clean energy development. These reforms will help make clean energy more accessible and affordable, speeding up the shift away from fossil fuels that are harming both our communities and our natural world.

This bill also moves Maine toward a more equitable energy system by establishing environmental justice definitions at the Public Utilities Commission. That's essential to ensure that communities disproportionately impacted by both pollution and unaffordable energy bills –often the same communities that lack access to clean air, water, and green space –are no longer left behind.



Protecting wildlife means protecting the habitats they depend on, and that includes addressing the root causes of climate change. **Maine Audubon urges you to support LD 1949 as a vital piece of both climate and energy equity solutions.**

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to a cleaner, fairer Maine.

Sincerely,

Ania Wright
Policy Advocate