



R. Scott Mahoney
Senior Vice President - General Counsel
& Corporate Secretary

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Via Email

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
EUT@legislature.maine.gov

Honorable Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:

I write on behalf of Avangrid and its subsidiary company, Central Maine Power (“CMP”), to express our concern regarding certain statements made about Avangrid and CMP at the May 15, 2025 meeting of your Committee. In particular, I am concerned about the unsworn, unsupported and slanderous statements made by Paulo Silva and Peter Fitzgerald in support of the sponsor’s amendment to LD 1963. It seems to be an unfortunate aspect of current political landscape that individuals like Messrs. Silva and Fitzgerald feel empowered to make serious public accusations of illegal or unethical activity against individuals or entities without providing any evidence to support them, and without facing any real consequences for their statements. While much of the damage has already been done by the airing of these public accusations in the May 15 meeting, I am writing you this letter in an attempt to provide some context and, perhaps, a dose of reality.

Regarding Mr. Silva, Avangrid is currently in active litigation with him so we are limited with respect to what we can say about his allegations.¹ But I did want to highlight and address a few specific points.

First, Mr. Silva made multiple references his November 2021 RICO lawsuit against Avangrid, implying that the allegations in that legal complaint are the truth, and at one point saying that his lawsuit “validates all of” his claims about Avangrid. But he conveniently failed to mention the fact that he voluntarily dismissed that suit only months after filing it, without ever serving it on the defendants in the suit. So the allegations in that complaint have certainly never been proven, and they have not even been subject to discovery.

Second, Mr. Silva claims that if the proposed amendments to LD 1963 had been in effect when he first made his claims, he would have simply reported his allegations to the state, and let the state run a prosecution of these claims. But, again, Mr. Silva omits a key fact: the MPUC opened an investigation

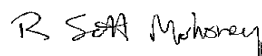
¹ *Avangrid Networks, Inc. and Avangrid Service Company vs. Security Limits, Inc. and Paulo Silva*, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, Case No. 22-Civ-9622. I have attached the Complaint in that action here if the Committee is interested in the allegations raised in that suit. As noted, this case is still pending; it has been delayed for a number of reasons, but Mr. Silva recently filed counterclaims against Avangrid which will be subject to a forthcoming motion to dismiss.

into the allegations after his November 2021 complaint was filed, and it subsequently closed that investigation without any finding of wrongdoing. Yet despite this, Mr. Silva continues to speak as if the allegations he has made against Avangrid are the unalloyed truth—they are not. I could go on with numerous additional examples of false or misleading statements by Mr. Silva in his written and oral testimony, but I am limited in what I can say given the ongoing litigation, and I believe these examples suffice to make my point.

With respect to Mr. Fitzgerald, I understand that he works for companies seeking to develop generation projects in Maine, and has had interactions with CMP to discuss the engineering necessary to connect those projects to the grid. Mr. Fitzgerald has often had issues with CMP's electric safety standards required to make such interconnections, and pushed for those standards to be relaxed with respect to his client's projects. In other words, he wants CMP to alter its safety standards in order to save his clients money on their interconnection costs. As a general matter CMP has refused to do so, since its standards are heavily vetted and are in place to protect individuals and the grid. As far as CMP is aware, Mr. Fitzgerald's claims that he has seen illegal activity or has been blackmailed are unfounded—he certainly has provided no evidence that such statements are true. Mr. Fitzgerald's further claim that he has had no avenue to report such illegal activity is questionable, since he appears to have failed to make any attempt to report the issues to the OPA, MPUC, or via Avangrid's 24/7 anonymous ethics helpline.²

I hope these examples provide the Committee with some additional context when it further considers LD 1963, and that it considers any further unsworn and unsupported claims by Messrs. Silva and Fitzgerald—or any of the proponents of this anti-utility legislation—with the due skepticism such statements should raise.

Sincerely,



R. Scott Mahoney

Senior Vice President - General Counsel & Corporate
Secretary

² See <https://www.avangrid.com/corporategovernance/corporategovernancesystem/complianceprogram> (“Avangrid has established a 24/7 Helpline available to employees, contractors, consultants, and suppliers. The Helpline is used both to seek guidance on ethics and compliance-related matters, and to report situations that may require investigation, such as questionable accounting or auditing practices, unprofessional behavior, and potential violations of laws or company policies. Callers are given the option of reporting through the Helpline anonymously. Avangrid strictly prohibits retaliation against employees who in good faith report ethics and compliance concerns.”).