

**Testimony of the Telecommunications Association of Maine**  
**Neither For Nor Against**  
**L.D. 1048, *An Act to Require Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections* and**  
**L.D. 1963, *An Act to Protect and Compensate Public Utility Whistleblowers***  
**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**  
**May 20, 2023**

Good morning, Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. I am Steven Hudson, an attorney with the firm of Preti Flaherty and I am providing testimony on behalf of the Telecommunications Association of Maine (“TAM”) on *L.D. 1048, An Act to Require Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections* and *L.D. 1963, An Act to Protect and Compensate Public Utility Whistleblowers*. TAM members serve some of the most rural and smallest communities in Maine and have done so for more than one hundred years. TAM members are solidly part of their local communities and integral parts of the economic development mosaic of these communities.

After viewing the hearings on these bills and discussing them with the TAM Board, the Board has directed me to testify that while they are not sure of needed additions to Maine’s existing and extensive whistleblower protections, they note that all of the testimony in support of these bills was provided in relation to investor-owned electric utilities and the need for additional measures related to these utilities. As a result, TAM suggests that if the Committee desires to move ahead with either of these bills, it consider limiting their application to investor-owned electric utilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on LD 1654. We are happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.