

Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

From: Ezra Sassaman, Advocacy Coordinator, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: January 20, 2026

Re: LD 838, An Act to Explore Public Financing and Ownership of Electric Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is Ezra Sassaman. I live in Bar Harbor and represent Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN), a coalition of eighteen nonprofit organizations united by a shared desire for transformative action in response to the climate crisis.

We support LD 838 because it accomplishes many of our goals simultaneously – we support the rapid buildout of clean energy projects, lowering electricity costs, and increasing the availability of local jobs with high labor standards.

By providing access to low-cost public financing for transmission and distribution, this legislation will enable Maine to quickly move towards its clean energy goals while reducing electricity prices for ratepayers. Linking project funding to strong union and labor standards will also ensure that Maine workers benefit directly from the projects the Maine Clean Energy Authority supports.

This model has been tested in other U.S. states, including by California's IBank¹, Colorado's Clean Energy Fund², and Washington's Clean Energy Fund and Clean Energy Grants³. These existing programs have shown cost reductions for ratepayers, sped up the deployment of clean energy and grid resilience projects, and created thousands of jobs in the regions where they are implemented.

The Maine Clean Energy Authority will meet the energy affordability challenges Mainers face across the state at a time when these pressures are being felt by so many.

For the above-stated reasons, we urge you to vote "ought-to-pass" on LD 838. Thank you for your time.

¹ GO-Biz, "[State of California's Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank Reaches \\$1 Billion in Infrastructure Loans Supporting California Communities through Clean Water, Organic Recycling, Safer Roads, Fire Protection, and More](#)". *Press Release*. June 12, 2023. Accessed January 16, 2026.

² Paul Sharfenberger, "[The Power of Strategic Investment: Colorado's Model for Green Finance](#)", *Colorado Newsline*. November 27, 2024. Accessed January 16, 2026.

³ Washington State Department of Commerce. "[Clean Energy Grants](#)". Washington State Department of Commerce. 2025. Accessed January 16, 2026.