

TESTIMONY OF TIMOTHY OUELLETTE IN OPPOSITION TO LD 838

An Act to Explore Public Financing and Ownership of Electric Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and distinguished members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

My name is Tim Ouellette, I live in Scarborough, and I am one of the owners and CEO of CPM Constructors, a construction company based in Freeport. I am submitting my testimony in opposition to LD 838, An Act to Explore Public Financing and Ownership of Electric Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure, as currently written.

CPM Constructors employs over 100 people across Maine, building bridges, marine facilities, railroads and heavy construction projects for customers like the Maine Department of Transportation, the Maine Turnpike Authority, numerous municipalities and private entities and several of Maine's utilities. I also am a Board member, and previous Board President, of AGC Maine, an association representing over 200 construction firms and thousands of construction workers in the state.

While I personally support the idea of coordinating energy infrastructure in Maine for the benefit of residents and ratepayers of the state, this bill will harm residents and ratepayers.

Once again, the Legislature is putting forth a proposed bill that freezes out Maine construction workers in favor of out-of-state labor unions. The simple fact is that less than 10% of all Maine construction workers are in a union. Instead, the vast majority of our construction workforce is employed by Maine-based private businesses. We are all members of various construction associations, we provide excellent pay and benefits, we train and promote our workforce to the highest industry standards, we work safely and we provide apprenticeships to new entrants into the skilled trades.

There is no need to restrict contracts to union companies, not is there a need to restrict board membership seats for the proposed Authority to organized labor only. In the end you are only hurting hard-working Mainers who are making a good living and building careers here in Maine.

Additionally, I feel the proposed Authority is duplicative in relation to several existing energy-focused entities in state government. As a taxpayer, the role of these entities should be evaluated and their various purviews coordinated before another entity is created, with all the related administrative infrastructure and costs that go with these new offices.

I encourage you to vote against this bill as currently written. Thank you for your time.