



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Sally Cluchey in support of
LD 2078, An Act to Establish the Electricity Cost Fairness Refundable Tax Credit

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

Senator Grohoski, Representative Sayre, and distinguished members of the Taxation Committee, my name is Sally Cluchey, and I represent House District 52, which includes Bowdoinham, Richmond, and part of Bowdoin. I am here today to support **LD 2078, An Act to Establish the Electricity Cost Fairness Refundable Tax Credit**.

Electricity is not a luxury — it's a necessity. Yet rising electricity costs are forcing too many Maine families to make impossible choices: do they pay the electric bill or buy groceries? Do they heat their homes or fill their prescriptions? These aren't theoretical scenarios. I've heard these stories directly from constituents in my district, and I know you've heard them in yours.

While the Legislature cannot control the market forces driving energy costs, we can provide meaningful relief to those bearing the heaviest burden. LD 2078 offers a practical, targeted solution: an income tax credit of up to \$600 per year for eligible Mainers, putting money directly back into the pockets of those who need it most.

This approach is not experimental — it builds on the proven success of our Property Tax Fairness Credit and Sales Tax Fairness Credit, policies that have already helped thousands of Maine families manage their cost of living. The Electricity Cost Fairness Credit would extend that same principle to another essential expense.

Working families shouldn't have to choose between keeping their lights on and meeting other basic needs. We have an opportunity — and I would argue a responsibility — to provide this relief. I urge you to support LD 2078.

Thank you for your time and consideration.