

# Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

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

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

Date: January 22, 2026

Re: LD 2113, An Act to Align Long-range Grid Strategy with the State Energy Plan and Strengthen Integrated Grid Planning

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.

Maine's investor-owned utilities currently control grid planning processes in the state – but their capital investment incentives don't always align with what's best for Mainers.

As described in a 2022 article, *“investor-owned utilities still steer the grid-planning process and [often] operate with clear conflicts of interest and a fuzzy understanding of their own systems. That's a big problem since the [Public Utilities Commission] often defers to the presumed expertise of utilities in its decision-making.”*<sup>1</sup>

LD 2113 addresses this problem by instead empowering Maine's Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to lead the state's grid planning. DOER has the capacity to develop a long-term plan focused on Maine's grid improvement needs – like electrification, integration of renewable energy, resilience planning, increasing distributed energy resources, and lowering electricity costs. That is why this department – not utilities with conflicts of interest – should lead this process in Maine. Once this strategy is developed, the Public Utilities Commission has the power to enforce this plan and ensure utilities follow it.

This legislation shifts Maine's grid planning from short-term, utility-driven investments to a long-term strategy aligned with state climate goals and guided by clear performance metrics. This is exactly the type of systems-level policy change our coalition supports – we are hopeful this legislation will set the stage for increased energy affordability and a rapid transition towards renewable energy in Maine.

For the above-stated reasons, we urge you to vote “ought-to-pass” on LD 2113. Thank you for your time.

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<sup>1</sup> Marina Schaffler, [“The bumpy road to better electric utility decisions”](#). *Maine Monitor*. July 1, 2022. Accessed January 21, 2026.