



Testimony in Support of LD 2112, “An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Form Community Choice Aggregation Programs to Procure Electricity”

January 22, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Committee Members:

My name is Seth Berry, I live in Bowdoinham, and I am the Executive Director of Our Power. Our Power is a small Maine nonprofit that advocates for affordable, reliable, locally-controlled power. Our Power supports LD 2112. To us, community choice aggregation or CCA simply represents a form of local control.

Maine is a home rule state. Maine’s Constitution, Article VIII, Part 2, Section 1, grants municipalities the right to adopt ordinances regulating a wide range of subjects. This means that local governments in Maine can exercise self-governance in areas not specifically restricted by state or federal laws.

In this same home rule spirit of our state’s constitution, the right of any Maine town *or tribal community* to supply power on behalf of its residents – with an opt-out provision – should be honored and respected by the law. We encourage you to be sure this bill applies to tribal communities as well as municipalities.

How do we see this local control being exercised? In some parts of Maine, there is strong concern about the climate crisis, or about depending on imported fuels. To these communities, CCA offers a path to exceed the state’s current renewable portfolio standard, perhaps even paying marginally more for more locally-generated, 24/7 power. Importantly, this bill provides for *individual* control as well as local control. The opt-out (not opt-in) provision of LD 2112 is well-designed and is essential to making CCA work. To be clear, we would not support the bill without this opt-out provision.

Such local experimentation could also benefit others, for example, by helping to encourage more use of storage, time-of-use pricing, or procurement terms other than the PUC’s normal one-year timeline, to replace imported fuels. Looking at Maine’s consumer-owned utilities, which do procure their own supply, it’s very clear that local control can in fact reduce rates and also provide lessons for others. In sum, by allowing for greater local control, this bill also offers more opportunity for us to seek alternatives that could be scaled to someday reduce rates and/or improve reliability.

In the long run, local control benefits all of us. We encourage you to pass this bill.