



Testimony in Support of LD 307
Resolve, to Establish the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council
February 5, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote, and I am here today on behalf of Versant Power in support of the proposed sponsor's amendment to LD 307.

Versant Power appreciates the sponsor's forward-thinking approach to data centers, including the electric grid-related and customer impacts of data center siting here in Maine. Should Versant be included as a member of the council as proposed, our participation would focus on the impacts these facilities can have on customers (and the strategies that can be employed to protect them from unnecessary risk) and the ways these facilities interact with the grid itself, including the challenges and opportunities they present.

Given the demand for new data centers being witnessed nationally, the availability of cost-effective land in parts of the state, and our colder climate, and abundance of water for cooling, we anticipate that Maine may be considered a potential host site for these facilities in the future. Indeed, Versant Power has been approached preliminarily regarding these types of facilities in our service territory. However, unlike other states across the country, Maine is still in the early stages of data center development, and we believe it is prudent to carefully evaluate these issues comprehensively and proactively, as suggested by the sponsor's amendment.

Thank you for your consideration and we would be happy to answer any questions for the work session.