



Testimony in Support of Sponsor's Amendment to LD 307, with new title "Resolve, to Establish the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council"

February 5, 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.

Data centers represent a significant threat to energy affordability. Our Power strongly supports the sponsor's proposed amendment to LD 307 because Maine and all states must adjust now to this new reality.

Our Power makes the following suggestions:

- 1) Rather than A.I. centers, the language should apply to all data centers, including those used for ever-expanding cloud storage.
- 2) Crypto-currency or bitcoin mining operations part of the same, unprecedented techno-threat to affordability. Crypto-mining operations should be included.
- 3) Add a representative from an organization in the state that advocates for lower energy costs. The Public Advocate should not carry this perspective alone.
- 4) Ask the Maine Connectivity Authority if it sees a need to be included. We have no objection to including MCA, but its mission – as created by this committee -- is not directly related to the use or pricing of electricity, or to data storage, AI or crypto.
- 5) Protect ratepayers from all negative financial impacts, direct and indirect. Our Power would appreciate further clarification to Section 2, sub-4, to explicitly include both direct and indirect financial impacts. In a standard "cost-causer pays" proceeding, indirect costs would not be salient. Due to the extraordinarily high usage of data centers and bitcoin mining, however, indirect consequences will be enormous. An important example is a predictable increase to regional supply costs due to a significant spike in demand for baseload as well as renewable power.

With these suggestions, Our Power strongly supports LD 307 and urges you to support it. I'm happy to try to answer any questions you may have.