

Testimony in Support LD 2203, “An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers” February 19, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Eloise Vitelli. I live in Arrowsic and am a member of the Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council (ERAC), representing CMP customers. I offer this testimony in strong support of LD 2203, “An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers.”

I would add that in addition to having been a former member of this committee, I was also sponsor of legislation that created the ERAC. (LD1913, 130th) My goal in creating this group was to give a broader array of consumers a voice in decisions affecting the electricity all of us depend upon.

The bill thus included language directing the Public Advocate to convene a stakeholder group charged with identifying methods to ensure that Mainers are able to afford their electricity even as the state strives to meet its energy goals. These methods may include new rates designs, lowering costs through energy efficiency measures, financial assistance programs and more. The stakeholder group may then make recommendations to this Committee so that we may implement smart policy that works for Maine and Maine people.

The recent report, *Is Maine’s CEP-Served Residential Retail Electric Supply Market Affordable?* paints a clear picture: rate payers in lower income communities (Figures 2 & 3, pages 27,28) and those who were recipients of LIAP (Table 18, page 35) were far more likely to pay higher electricity prices through a CEP than the standard offer.

We don’t know the reasons that influence any rate payer to choose a CEP over the standard offer – though I have received offers for gift-cards and the promise of a discount, as well as clean energy benefits. And yet, as the report points out: “LIAP program participants... pay a higher percentage premium than non-LIAP customers.” (page 34) “The excess payment to CEPs by LIAP participants in the 2024-2025 period amounts to more than 5% of the total LIAP funding for that year.” (page 38)

Nonetheless, taking away the choice to sign up with a CEP for electricity supply, solely because a ratepayer receives LIAP, struck most of us on ERAC as unfair. Good policy is almost always a balancing of interests – in this case, affordability for individual ratepayers and responsible stewardship of a public resource -LIAP. The ‘smarter policy’, which received unanimous support from ERAC members, is the one contained in LD 2203 and I urge your support of this change.

Eloise Vitelli
Arrowsic
LD 2203

Testimony in Support LD 2203, “An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers” February 19, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Eloise Vitelli. I live in Arrowsic and am a member of the Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council (ERAC), representing CMP customers. I offer this testimony in strong support of LD 2203, “An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers.”

I would add that in addition to having been a former member of this committee, I was also sponsor of legislation that created the ERAC. (LD1913, 130th) My goal in creating this group was to give a broader array of consumers a voice in decisions affecting the electricity all of us depend upon.

The bill thus included language directing the Public Advocate to convene a stakeholder group charged with identifying methods to ensure that Mainers are able to afford their electricity even as the state strives to meet its energy goals. These methods may include new rates designs, lowering costs through energy efficiency measures, financial assistance programs and more. The stakeholder group may then make recommendations to this Committee so that we may implement smart policy that works for Maine and Maine people.

The recent report, *Is Maine’s CEP-Served Residential Retail Electric Supply Market Affordable?* paints a clear picture: rate payers in lower income communities (Figures 2 & 3, pages 27,28) and those who were recipients of LIAP (Table 18, page 35) were far more likely to pay higher electricity prices through a CEP than the standard offer. We don’t know the reasons that influence any rate payer to choose a CEP over the standard offer – though I have received offers for gift-cards and the promise of a discount, as well as clean energy benefits. And yet, as the report points out: “LIAP program participants... pay a higher percentage premium than non-LIAP customers.” (page 34) “The excess payment to CEPs by LIAP participants in the 2024-2025 period amounts to more than 5% of the total LIAP funding for that year.” (page 38) Nonetheless, taking away the choice to sign up with a CEP for electricity supply, solely because a ratepayer receives LIAP, struck most of us on ERAC as unfair. Good policy is almost always a balancing of interests – in this case, affordability for individual ratepayers and responsible stewardship of a public resource -LIAP. The ‘smarter policy’, which received unanimous support from ERAC members, is the one contained in LD 2203 and I urge your support of this change.