



February 18, 2026

Testimony in Support

LD 1223 – An Act to Establish a Tax Credit for Net Energy Billing Costs

Senator Grohoski, Representative Sayre and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Kathleen Bowman, Vice President of Government Affairs for Central Maine Power Company, submitting in support of the sponsor’s amendment to LD 1223 – An Act to Establish a Tax Credit for Net Energy Billing Costs.

Our mission as an investor-owned utility is to deliver safe, reliable service at the lowest reasonable cost. While Maine’s net energy billing (NEB) programs have accelerated renewable generation, they also create costs that are recovered directly through customer electricity bills. These charges—whether from kilowatt-hour crediting or the commercial and institutional NEB program—are policy-driven and outside utility control. For many residential and small business customers, these added costs contribute to real affordability challenges.

When program costs are recovered solely through utility rates, those costs fall disproportionately on ratepayers, including individuals and small businesses already struggling with high electric bills.

While we would prefer it if we were not required to collect these costs from our customers, this amendment provides a practical mechanism to deliver relief. By offering a refundable credit equal to the NEB-related costs a customer pays, the State can help offset the bill impacts of these programs. The refundability ensures the credit benefits all customers, including low-income households with little or no tax liability.

Shifting relief to the tax system helps ensure that the costs of achieving statewide policy objectives are borne more equitably by all taxpayers, not concentrated on a narrower group of ratepayers.

The amendment’s transparency requirements also support better public understanding. Annual disclosure of NEB-related costs will help customers see what portion of their bills reflects policy choices rather than utility operations. This clarity is essential for informed decision-making as Maine evaluates long-term renewable energy strategies.

We believe it strikes a responsible balance that supports Maine’s renewable energy goals while helping ease the burden on ratepayers.