



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony of Nick Janzen, Director of Policy & Partnerships, Maine Conservation Voters

In Support of LD 2203

“An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers”

Before the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee

February 19, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. My name is Nick Janzen, I’m the Policy & Partnerships Director at Maine Conservation Voters. MCV is a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I am here to testify in support of LD 2203 *“An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers.”*

This bill would prevent competitive electricity providers (CEPs) from providing service to residential customers receiving low-income assistance at rates higher than the standard offer service rate. As Public Advocate Sanborn recently reported from findings prepared for the Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council (ERAC), CEP customers paid \$150 million more than they would have paid on the standard offer, with those cost increases falling disproportionately on customers receiving assistance. We agree with the OPA that scarce assistance dollars should be helping people, not CEPs.

I want to highlight a particular conclusion from this report. When LIAP payments shift from lump sums to monthly credits, the same amount of LIAP dollars will help fewer Mainers if recipients are signing up for unnecessarily expensive supply rates. We know LIAP participation is growing, we know the number of LIAP customers choosing CEPs is growing, and we know that overall electric rates are only going up.

These trends are financially unsustainable, not just for customers receiving assistance, but for all customers. Much more needs to be done to fully address the affordability crisis, but LD 2203 is an important step and a fiscally responsible way to protect LIAP. In fact, although we support the bill in its current form, we would encourage the committee to consider expanding the scope of this legislation to all residential ratepayers.

MCV urges the committee to vote “ought to pass” on LD 2203.