



Testimony of Marge Kilkelly for Legal Services for Maine Elders to the  
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

My name is Marge Kilkelly, and I am here today on behalf of Legal Services for Maine Elders. For over 50 years LSE has provided free legal help statewide for Mainers aged 60 and older when their basic human needs are at stake. Our clients are generally low-income, some with medically complex conditions.

**I am speaking in Support of LD 2203 An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-income Electricity Consumers**

The issue before you today is enacting a new law that will require rulemaking to assure that a competitive electricity supplier may not contract with a consumer receiving low-income assistance if the rates may be higher than the standard offer. It does not prohibit consumer choice in electricity provider but it does protect those who may be very vulnerable to some of the advertising tactics of these providers.

Case in point: my dear 90-year-old friend called me and said she had gotten a card in the mail from CMP offering her a \$50 Gift Card if she bought environmentally friendly energy. She was poor as a church mouse and could use the \$50. She also was very concerned about the environment and wanted to help in her small way. I had her bring the card when she came to lunch on Sunday.

I scoured the fine print and explained to her that it was not from CMP and that it was not guaranteed to save her money and she would have to wait months before she received her Gift Card. If she determined the new was not saving her money and she cancelled- there might be a cancellation fee. Over several months she received several cards and with each card we had a similar conversation.

She was an honest, straightforward practical woman and found it hard to believe that this could be so deceptive yet it was allowed.

LSE works every day with older, low income consumers who are struggling with housing issues, including high utility costs. We believe that this bill a critical step forward to create reasonable guardrails to assure that low income Mainers do not pay higher than the standard offer for power.

Please pass LD 2203.

**LEGAL SERVICES FOR MAINE ELDERS, INC.**  
**5 Wabon Street, Augusta, Maine 04333**  
**(207) 621-0087 Fax (207) 621-0742**  
**Offices in Augusta, Bangor, Lewiston, Biddeford and Presque Isle**  
**LSE Helpline 1-800-750-5353 (Voice/TTY)**  
[www.mainelse.org](http://www.mainelse.org)

