



17 Market Square, South Paris, ME 04281

Victoria Forkus, Managing Director
Maine Community Action
Partnership
c/o Community Concepts, Inc.
17 Market Square
South Paris, ME 04281
207-441-6657

Jason Parent, Executive
Director/CEO
Community Action in Aroostook
Washington and Hancock Counties
771 Main Street
Presque Isle, ME 04769-1116
207-764-3721

James Martin, CEO
Community Concepts, Inc.
240 Bates Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
207-739-6553

Suzanne Walsh, CEO
Kennebec Valley Community Action
Program
101 Water Street
Waterville, ME 04901
207-859-1579

Claire Berkowitz, CEO
Midcoast Maine Community Action
34 Wing Farm Parkway
Bath, ME 04530
207-442-7963

Joe Everett, President and CEO
The Opportunity Alliance
50 Lydia Lane
South Portland, ME 04106
207-523-5055

Kara Hay, President and CEO
Penquis
PO Box 1162
Bangor, ME 04402
207-973-3500

Donna Kelley, President and CEO
Waldo Community Action Partners

9 Field Street
Belfast, ME 04915
207-338-6809

Noelle Coyne, CEO
Western Maine Community Action,
Inc.
PO Box 200
East Wilton, ME 04234-0200
207-743-7763

Carter Friend, CEO
York County Community Action
Corporation
PO Box 72
Sanford, ME 04073
207-324-5762

February 20th, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 2203 – An Act to Limit Rates Charged to Low-Income Electricity Consumers

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

My name is Victoria Forkus, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine Community Action Partnership (MeCAP), representing Maine's nine Community Action Agencies. In my role, I also serve as a member of the Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council (ERAC). We urge your support for LD 2203, a simple and necessary protection measure for low-income energy consumers.

LD 2203 ensures that competitive electricity providers (CEPs) cannot charge low-income households more than the standard-offer service rate. The bill prevents CEPs from entering into or renewing contracts with LIAP-eligible consumers if the rate exceeds the standard offer rate and authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to adopt rules to implement this protection.

This bill responds to clear evidence that many Maine consumers, particularly low-income households, pay more under CEP contracts than they would under the standard offer. Recent reporting has shown that Maine households face some of the steepest electricity cost increases in the nation, and CEP customers receiving assistance are especially vulnerable to inflated supply rates.

The recent report, "Is Maine's CEP-Served Residential Retail Electric Supply Market Affordable? 2025 Update", demonstrated that LIAP customers are more likely to purchase electricity from a CEP, and on-average pay higher rates than non-LIAP recipients. This is an unacceptable outcome that requires additional consumer protection.

Community Action Agencies work with thousands of low-income households who already struggle to meet basic energy needs. Even small rate differences can deepen energy insecurity, which can cause trade-offs between electricity, food, housing, or medication. Other states have already implemented similar protections, and Maine should join them in safeguarding vulnerable ratepayers.

For these reasons, MeCAP respectfully urges you to support and advance LD 2203. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Victoria D. Forkus

Victoria Forkus
Managing Director
Maine Community Action Partnership (MeCAP)
(M) 207-441-6657