

Testimony before the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources in support of LD 2174, *An Act to Replace the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act with the Maine Renewable Energy and Associated Transmission Development and Conservation Act*

February 25, 2026

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Phelps Turner, and I am Director of Clean Grid at Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of LD 2174, *An Act to Replace the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act with the Maine Renewable Energy and Associated Transmission Development and Conservation Act*, amended by the bill sponsor as *An Act to Increase Predictability in the Permitting of Renewable Energy Development*.

CLF, founded in 1966, is a public interest advocacy group that works to solve the environmental and energy challenges threatening the people, natural resources and communities in Maine and across New England. In Maine for almost four decades, CLF is a member-supported organization that works to ensure that laws and policies are developed, implemented and enforced that protect and restore our natural resources; are good for Maine's economy and environment; and equitably address the climate crisis.

LD 2174 will enable Maine to develop energy infrastructure more efficiently and affordably.

As the energy affordability crisis in Maine persists, the state can and must develop lower-cost energy supply and delivery promptly.

LD 2174 will promote more streamlined and efficient review of energy infrastructure by establishing permit processing time limits for renewable energy projects, and by directing a permit-by-rule approach for certain energy projects. These changes should result in reduced delays, risks and costs for developers, host communities and other stakeholders. A recent report assessing the benefits of accelerating permitting for infrastructure projects clearly indicates that permitting delays result in lost project revenue and delayed project benefits, which include community benefits, increased power generation capacity and lower carbon emissions.¹

LD 2174 will also increase energy infrastructure project predictability, which will reduce project costs. As the 2025 Maine Energy Plan indicates, "greater predictability in siting, permitting, and interconnection processes for clean energy, can help reduce delays and cost increases."²

We are all too familiar with the hurdles that large scale energy infrastructure projects have faced here in Maine. LD 2174 is a clear and significant step forward in building more affordable clean energy infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 2174.

¹ McKinsey & Company, [Unlocking US federal permitting: A sustainable growth imperative](#), July 28, 2025.

² Maine Department of Energy Resources, [Maine Energy Plan](#), January 2025, at 35.