

February 26, 2026

Martin Berry
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**THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCING AFFAIRS
&
THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

“An Act Making Unified Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds, and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027”

L.D. 2212

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA) as well as members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT): My name is Martin Berry, and I am the Superintendent of Madison Electric Works. I submit this letter in support of the Department of Energy Resources’ biennial budget proposal to leverage significant federal funds to expand the critical work of the Maine Grid Resilience Grant Program.

Maine’s aging electric grid infrastructure faces significant pressure from severe storms. As a heavily forested, rural state, Maine’s electricity distribution lines have a high probability of damage from falling trees during wind or ice storms. As a result, Maine experiences more frequent and longer duration power outages than most other states. The 2023 and 2024 winter storms devastated communities across the state, including by inflicting significant damage to the electric grid and imposing significant new recovery costs for customers.

The Maine Department of Energy Resources’ Grid Resilience Grant Program has been critical for our community by helping to save ratepayer dollars and investing in crucial reliability and resilience projects across the state, which will help strengthen the state’s resilience and reduce costs over the long term.

Madison Electric serves parts of Madison, Anson, Norridgewock and Starks. These funds will help improve our service area by helping with vegetation management and updating aging infrastructure.

We have been fortunate to have been selected by the Department of Energy Resources as a subgrantee of federal Grid Resilience Formula Grant Program dollars to the state.

We were awarded \$510,000 in Federal funds with a 30% match. This will be applied to our tree trimming and vegetation spraying program. Along with upgrading aging parts of our system.

Providing these additional funds to the Maine Grid Resilience Grant Program will enable more communities across the state to benefit from a more resilient and reliable electric grid while saving ratepayer funds over the long term.

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of these important funds. If there are any questions about the grant to date, we would be happy to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Martin Berry