



*Harnessing the Power of Communities*

March 11, 2026

**Testimony of LEAN Energy US in support of  
L.D. 2112, An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Form Community Choice Aggregation  
Programs to Procure Electricity  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology***

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee:

On behalf of LEAN Energy US, a national 501(c)3 nonprofit organization representing municipal electric aggregation customers and communities across the country, I am pleased to provide testimony in support of L.D. 2112.

Municipal electric aggregation (also known as Community Choice Aggregation) programs are a proven, community-driven approach that gives local governments the option to aggregate electricity demand on behalf of residents, businesses, and municipal accounts. This enables competitive procurement, expanded energy choice, price stability, procurement innovation, and the pursuit of locally defined energy goals.

To date, ten states have authorized community choice aggregation, including three in New England: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Similar to Maine, Connecticut is in the process of exploring and developing enabling policies for these programs. Collectively, these programs serve approximately 20 million customer accounts across more than 1,500 communities nationwide. L.D. 2112 positions Maine to benefit from these proven models while incorporating lessons learned and aligning with Maine’s regulatory framework.

Community choice aggregation programs have become so popular across restructured electricity states that customer participation rates in communities that have active programs typically range from 85% to 95%. This model is now one of the most powerful local policy tools available to municipalities, enabling them to drive energy independence, protect consumers, prioritize competitive pricing, and generate local economic benefits.

**Why L.D. 2112 Matters for Maine**

L.D. 2112 gives municipalities in Maine a voluntary, carefully regulated tool to aggregate the electric load of their residents and businesses, and procure electricity competitively on their behalf.

Importantly, these benefits are achieved without compromising grid reliability. Transmission, distribution, outage response, and billing services remain fully in the hands of existing utilities.

Utilities continue to operate the poles and wires under existing regulatory structures, and customers continue to receive a single consolidated utility bill.

At its core, community choice aggregation is about local choice and market participation. It allows municipalities that wish to pursue price stability, local energy goals, or innovative procurement strategies to do so, while municipalities that do not wish to participate are under no obligation.

## **Key Consumer and Regulatory Protections in Community Choice Aggregation Programs**

### **1. Local Control**

Local governments can tailor procurement strategies to reflect community priorities, including price stability, energy goals, and program duration.

### **2. Transparency and Oversight**

Municipalities that adopt a municipal electric aggregation program under L.D. 2112 will do so through a local legislative process and are subject to oversight and reporting requirements established by the Maine Public Utilities Commission. This provides an added layer of transparency and accountability.

### **3. Consumer Choice**

Customers are automatically enrolled in order to provide the purchasing power benefits of aggregation. However, every customer retains a clear and simple right to opt out at any time without penalty.

### **4. Protection for Low-Income and Assistance Program Customers**

All customers remain protected under existing utility consumer safeguards, including billing, service reliability, and low-income programs. Participation in a municipal electric aggregation program does not interfere with eligibility for utility-administered discounts or public assistance programs.

### **5. Competitive Procurement and Market Innovation**

By aggregating electricity demand, municipalities gain purchasing power that allows for competitive pricing and diverse energy supply options. Municipal aggregation programs have demonstrated the ability to maintain price competitiveness and improve rate stability, without compromising grid reliability or utility operations.

### **6. Economic Development**

Community choice aggregation programs help retain energy dollars within local communities. They support economic activity tied to energy procurement and program administration, all while complementing existing utility infrastructure. In other states, aggregation programs have supported clean energy investment, workforce development, and local energy initiatives aligned with community priorities.

## Conclusion

L.D. 2112 does not mandate participation. It does not displace utilities. It does not alter transmission or distribution regulation. It simply provides municipalities in Maine with a lawful, voluntary, transparent, and consumer-protective option to aggregate demand and negotiate electricity supply in alignment with local priorities.

In an era of energy price volatility and growing demand for affordable, reliable, and clean power, this legislation provides communities with a proven and carefully structured tool—one that has been successfully implemented in neighboring states—to deliver stability, innovation, and accountability.

LEAN Energy US strongly encourages the Committee to support L.D. 2112. We stand ready to serve as a technical resource to legislators, regulators, and municipalities as Maine considers implementation.

Respectfully submitted,

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