

**Testimony of Huhtamaki Food Services**  
**Before**  
**The Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**  
**Regarding Support of LD 698**

March 8, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. My name is Paul Serbent, and I work at Huhtamaki. Our Waterville plant employs 550 people and produces formed fiber packaging that is in demand as an alternative to foam and plastic based products. Huhtamaki is a larger energy consumer and is already burdened by high energy costs compared to our other plants in other regions of the country. In the past, we've had to idle machines and lay off employees during times of high electricity prices.

That's why I'm here today to voice support for LD 698.

Similar to the Maine Energy cost Reduction Act enacted over 10 years ago, this legislation seeks to resolve a root cause of high energy costs. The Maine Public Utilities Commission, ISO-New England, and the Department of Energy all agree that high energy costs are a result of high natural gas prices. Those prices are even higher in Maine and New England because of constrained pipeline capacity. Expanding major natural gas supply infrastructure into New England benefits everyone by lowering energy costs—especially Maine's large manufacturers.

Huhtamaki is also committed to doing its part for the climate—that's why the company has invested in energy efficiency and renewables. Expanding natural gas pipeline capacity in New England will allow Huhtamaki to secure savings through lower energy prices that it can continue investing in green energy solutions and in its Maine facilities and workforce.

I urge you to vote in support of LD 698, and thank you for considering this testimony.