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**Testimony Neither for nor Against
LD 698, “An Act Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Study the State
Natural Gas Supply Pursuant to the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Act”
March 8, 2023**

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

My name is William Harwood and I am the Public Advocate, here today to testify
neither for nor against LD 698, “An Act Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Study
the State Natural Gas Supply Pursuant to the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Act.”

The OPA is open to further study but has significant doubts about the feasibility and
cost effectiveness of adding new gas pipeline capacity. In recent years, the price of natural
gas has not been stable or predictable. Before we invest more of our limited resources in
additional gas pipelines, we need to be sure that doing so is feasible and cost effective.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this testimony. The Office
of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 698 and will
be available for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'William S. Harwood'.

William S. Harwood
Public Advocate