



May 2, 2023

Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair
Representative Paige Ziegler, Chair
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology 100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in support of LD 1775, “An Act to Establish a Clean Hydrogen Pilot Program”

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

My name is Jeremy Payne and I am a principal with Cornerstone Government Affairs Group here to testify in support of LD 1775 on behalf of our client the Maine Renewable Energy Association (“MREA”).

We are here to support LD 1775 because of its potential to help reduce curtailment on the output of existing renewable projects due to constraints on our electric grid. Importantly, it appears able to accomplish this without the need for additional transmission infrastructure.

A few years ago, the Governor’s Energy Office delivered a report identifying the economic challenges that transmission constraints place on the ability for new generators to come online in Maine. As this committee is well aware, siting any type of development in Maine can be a costly and time-consuming endeavor as we continue to diversify our energy mix (from grid-scale to distributed generation) – it is vital that Maine ratepayers are able to receive cost-effective, clean, and Maine-made energy where possible. This legislation seems able to help us moving toward accomplishing these important goals.

We respectfully encourage the committee to vote ought to pass.

Thank you.