



For a thriving New England

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Maine State Legislature

Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

January 11, 2024

Testimony of Conservation Law Foundation on LD 1963

An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine

Chairmen Lawrence and Zeigler, and members of the Energy, Utilities & Technology Committee, I am Sean Mahoney, the Vice President and Senior Counsel of the Conservation Law Foundation, a member-supported nonprofit advocacy organization working to conserve natural resources, protect public health, and build healthy communities in Maine and throughout New England. CLF submits this testimony in support of LD 1963 as amended by Senator Jackson and posted on January 9, 2024

As amended, LD 1963 will not only provide for the issuance of competitive solicitations for new renewable energy generation in Northern Maine and associated electric transmission upgrades to make that renewable energy deliverable throughout Maine and New England but will also direct the Public Utilities Commission and the Governor's Energy Office to partner with other New England states in the procurement of that renewable energy. CLF strongly supports Senator Jackson's push to increase the coordination between Maine and the other New England states to plan, permit and build the clean energy generation and transmission infrastructure necessary to build our economy and meet the climate crisis. Because our electric grid is regional, such coordination is critical not only to ensure the most cost-effective and reliable deployment of renewable energy resources but also an equitable sharing of the benefits and costs associated with that deployment.

Indeed, we would join others calling to expand the measures in LD 1963 bill that encourage Maine to partner with the other New England States so that it includes transmission development throughout Maine. New transmission infrastructure to unlock Maine's renewable energy potential will benefit existing renewable energy resources in Maine that are currently curtailed due to transmission congestion. Increasing the flow of renewable energy to the transmission system in Maine and New England will also reduce overall consumer costs by unlocking access to Maine's rich renewable energy resources, the region's lowest cost source of energy. Spreading the costs of major projects among multiple beneficiary states will ensure that that the costs borne by Maine as an exporter of energy will be shared by the states that benefit from the infrastructure investments here.

We urge this Committee to support this effort and to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1963.