



Maine State Legislature  
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
January 11, 2024

**Testimony of RENEW Northeast 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 Francis Pullaro the Executive Director of RENEW Northeast, Inc. (RENEW) here in support of the bill as revised by the sponsor's amendment posted on January 9, 2024.<sup>1</sup>

The amended bill will 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 the ISO New England system. It directs the Public Utilities Commission and the Governor's Energy Office to partner with other New England states in the procurement. RENEW strongly supports a Northern Maine procurement and the requirement for Maine to evaluate proposals in coordination with other states to ensure the most cost-effective and reliable deployment of renewable energy resources.

The need for transmission upgrades has been around in Northern Maine for years and is quickly becoming apparent for delivery of forthcoming renewable energy projects throughout New England including Southern Maine. The urgency around coordinated planning and investment in New England's transmission grid comes on the heels of a RENEW Northeast poll that found voters in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine strongly support (92%) multi-state efforts to build new transmission, and that more than 90% of those surveyed are supportive of new transmission lines being built in or near their communities. And, despite growing energy cost concerns, a solid majority in the poll (69%) indicated they would be willing pay more for transmission to bring more renewable energy into the grid.

For this reason, RENEW supports expanding the measures in this bill that encourage Maine to partner with the other New England States so that the authority includes transmission development throughout Maine and our regional grid. The ongoing regional transmission planning initiatives by the states and ISO New England will benefit consumers by maximizing project efficiency and increasing the reliability of our regional grid. New transmission infrastructure to unlock Maine's renewable energy potential can also significantly reduce curtailment of existing Maine renewable energy resources. Spreading the costs of major projects among multiple beneficiary states will avoid overburdening the economics of any single project and ensure each state which stands to benefit from the investments contributes to the costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

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<sup>1</sup> The comments expressed herein represent the views of RENEW and not necessarily those of any particular member of RENEW. RENEW Northeast ([www.renewne.org](http://www.renewne.org)) unites environmental advocates with developers and operators of the region's largest clean energy projects to coordinate their ideas and resources with the goal of increasing environmentally sustainable power generation in New England from the region's abundant renewable energy resources.