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**Testimony Position in Support of
LD 2099, “An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy
Projects”**

January 23, 2024

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

My name is William Harwood, here today as Public Advocate, to testify in support of LD 2099, “An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects.”

Based on the representations in the testimony from the Governor’s Energy Office, the OPA supports LD 2099. Specifically, we support efforts to develop more renewable energy based on competitive bidding by developers, rather than a formula approach to compensate developers, such as our NEB program. We also appreciate the GEO’s efforts to develop a renewable energy program where the benefits are targeted to low income ratepayers who are struggling under our sky high electricity costs and have had little opportunity to participate in the NEB program.

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 2099 and will be available for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William S. Harwood".

William S. Harwood
Public Advocate