

LD 2143

Testimony in Support of LD 2143, An Act to Dedicate the Revenue from the Sales Tax on Electricity to Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance

Senator Grohoski

Representative Perry

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

My name is Debra Hart, and I am a resident of Manchester, Maine. I am providing this testimony on behalf of my clients, the Dirigo Electric Cooperative. The Dirigo companies, which are Maine's consumer-owned electric utilities include Van Buren Light & Power District, Houlton Water Company, Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Fox Island Electric Cooperative, Madison Electric Works, Kennebunk Light & Power District, Isle Au Haut Electric, and the Brunswick Landing Electric Utility (collectively, "the COUs"). Sadly, a quick check tells me that none of you have one of the COUs serving your towns.

We want to thank Representative Warren for bringing this bill forward to use the sales tax on the sale of electricity to benefit Maine's low-income customers through the Maine State Housing Authority's Low-Income Assistance Program, which provides homeowners and renters help in paying their electric bills. This is an innovative solution to finding a source of funds that can provide a credit on their electric bills.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments in support of this legislation.