



TESTIMONY of Megan Diver
Vice President
Maine Energy Marketers Association

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
Energy, Utilities and Technology
In Support to LD 2245**

**An Act to Clarify the Definition of "Underground Facility" and Reduce Administrative Burdens Under
the So-called Dig Safe Law**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Joint Standing Committee of Energy, Utilities and Technology, I am Megan Diver, I am the Vice President of the Maine Energy Marketers Association (MEMA).

MEMA is a trade association composed of approximately 300-member companies and over 5,000 direct and 5,000 indirect people working in energy delivery and servicing businesses delivering heating oil, biofuels, motor fuels, propane, pellets and kerosene and offering service and installations on the equipment that operates these fuels. MEMA members sell more than one billion gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel each year as well as more than 90% of all the heating oil and propane sold in our state every year.

I am here to testify in support of LD 2245. Last session MEMA worked with PGANE and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to submit a bill to the Legislature. The bill was turned into a resolve to create a stakeholder group between the Propane industry and the PUC relating to the So-called Dig Safe Law. You may recall that LD 1479 was passed by this Committee and became public law. The stakeholder group met through the fall to work together to change the So-called Dig Safe law that was more workable for the industry, but also addressed the safety concerns of the PUC.

The recommendations included in the report represent a narrowly tailored solution that could greatly reduce the administrative burdens associated with participation in the Dig Safe system without compromising safety. MEMA would like to express our great appreciate for all participants that participated in the stakeholder group as well as the PUC. All participants of the stakeholder group did so with interest, knowledge and the willingness to discuss complicated, but important issues. The PUC recognize that at times participation in Dig Safe for both operators and excavators can be administratively burdensome; however, emphasized that those burdens need to be measured against ensuring the highest level of public safety, MEMA agrees with all of this. Between everyone involved we were able to strike a balance between the burden of compliance with the need to protect public safety in an efficient and effective manner.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.