

LD 2254

Senator Lawrence
Representative Zeigler
Members of the Energy, Utilities & Technology Committee

My name is Debra Hart and I am a resident of Manchester, Maine. I am here today on behalf of the Dirigo Electric Cooperative, Maine's consumer-owned electric companies, which are Van Buren Light & Power District, Houlton Water Company, Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Fox Island Electric Cooperative, Madison Electric Works, Kennebunk Light & Power District and the Brunswick Landing Electric Utility (collectively "the COU's").

We support the underlying concept outlined in LD 2254, which would correct what we believe was an unintended consequence of a bill that passed during the First Regular Session of the 131st Special Session that changed the rules governing political and lobbying expenditures made by consumer-owned water utilities and transmission and distribution electric utilities.

The bill before you as currently drafted would make that correction for water utilities. We would hope you would see the value in extending that correction for Maine's consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.