



STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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**Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission**

**Neither For Nor Against**

**LD 241, An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Approve Rate Adjustments for Low-income Water Utility Ratepayers**

February 6, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology (Committee), my name is Deirdre Schneider, testifying neither for nor against the sponsor's proposed amendment to LD 241, An Act to Authorize the Public Utilities Commission to Approve Rate Adjustments for Low-income Water Utility Ratepayers on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

LD 241 allows a water utility or a group of water utilities to petition the Commission for approval of a low-income assistance program for residential customers. It provides the Commission with discretion in determining whether to approve a proposed program. It also provides the utilities with discretion in establishing any low-income assistance program.

Under existing law, the Commission does not believe a water utility would be precluded from proposing a low-income assistance program nor would the Commission be precluded from approving such a program. In fact, there have been arrangements for low-income assistance to customers approved by the Commission in rate cases. However, LD 241 differs in that it allows for multiple utilities to propose a program together. Furthermore, it is helpful to have statute clearly define the authority of water utilities and the Commission. LD 241 removes any ambiguity regarding the establishment of low-income assistance programs by water utilities.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information for the work session.