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Testimony in Opposition
LD 444, "An Act to Lower Energy Costs by Repealing the Law Setting Out the
State's Goals for Consumption of Electricity from Renewable Resources"
March 4, 2025

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

My name is Heather Sanborn, here today as Public Advocate, to testify in opposition to LD 444, "An Act to Lower Energy Costs by Repealing the Law Setting Out the State's Goals for Consumption of Electricity from Renewable Resources."

This bill repeals the State of Maine's longstanding renewable energy goals. The OPA firmly believes that renewable generation is critical to helping buffer the instability of both the pricing and supply of fossil fuels including natural gas. For this reason, maintaining the State's renewable portfolio goals is important to Maine ratepayers.

Maine's ambitious Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is established under MRS Title 35-A, Section 3210. This statute outlines the requirements for increasing the percentage of electricity sold in the state that must come from renewable sources. It sets the targets for Maine's renewable energy goals, including the mandate for 80% renewable electricity by 2030 and a path to 100% by 2050. The law also includes provisions for renewable energy credits (RECs), long-term contracts, and compliance mechanisms to ensure utilities meet these obligations.

These targets are designed to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and promote clean energy sources such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric power. Achieving renewable energy goals is crucial for controlling electricity costs in Maine. Fossil fuel prices are volatile and can lead to unpredictable spikes in electricity rates, especially in a state like Maine, which is very vulnerable to both supply constraints and price spikes in natural gas. Expanding renewable energy generation reduces exposure to these market fluctuations and enhances energy security by utilizing locally available resources. Additionally, as renewable energy

technologies continue to improve and economies of scale drive down costs, the long-term price of electricity in Maine is expected to stabilize, benefiting consumers and businesses alike.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Sanborn
Public Advocate