

**Testimony of Ashley Luszczki**  
**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**  
**Neither for nor Against L.D. 301, An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Establish**  
**Performance-based Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms for a Public Utility in Any**  
**Proceeding**  
**March 6, 2024**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Ashley Luszczki. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on L.D. 301, An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Establish Performance-based Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms for a Public Utility in Any Proceeding. I am providing testimony neither for nor against this legislation on behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, which represents small to large businesses across the state.

Our primary concern with this proposal is ensuring that any changes to regulatory oversight and ratemaking by the Public Utilities Commission are guided by a well-defined standard that prioritizes the public interest. While the Chamber recognizes that these tools can be helpful in ensuring reliable and cost-effective utility infrastructure for consumers and businesses – and are meaningful as we look to grow the economy – they also serve a broader purpose.

Given their significance, the Chamber feels it is extremely important that when utilizing them in proceedings, they are used in a way that aligns with the long-term needs and interests of Mainers. Before directing the Commission to implement this new ratemaking structure, further discussion with stakeholders and customers may be warranted to design a performance-based ratemaking system that aligns with policy goals and balances affordability.