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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

**An Act to Allow the Public Utilities Commission to Establish Performance-based Metrics and Rate-adjustment Mechanisms for a Public Utility in Any Proceeding**

**L.D. 301**

**GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE  
 March 6, 2025**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT): My name is Caroline Colan, and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Governor's Energy Office (GEO).

The GEO testifies in support of L.D. 301.

In the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Governor Mills presented legislation, with bipartisan support, to reform and strengthen the state's approach to the oversight and accountability of Maine's electric utilities. In advance of introducing L.D. 1959, she stated: "Our utilities – which are granted a monopoly over the vital service of delivering electricity to Maine consumers large and small – must provide the high quality, reliable, efficient, and competent service that Maine citizens and businesses expect and deserve." That legislation, which became law on May 2, 2022, put in place a requirement that the Maine Public Utilities Commission (Commission) establish minimum standards of service that utilities must deliver for Maine consumers. A key tenant of L.D. 1959 in establishing standards for service was to provide clear rules and expectations regarding improved performance and reliability, and in the process to improve transparency for electric customers and establish clear expectations for utilities to meet. The legislation also empowered the Commission with enhanced authority to impose financial penalties on utilities that do not meet these standards.

We are generally supportive of this legislation which clarifies the ability of the Commission to establish performance-based metrics and rate-adjustment mechanisms for a public utility in its proceedings. It is vital that Maine's citizens and businesses have confidence in our utilities to provide safe, reliable and affordable service. We believe that performance-based regulations are most likely to achieve success and increased customer confidence when metrics and compliance mechanisms are transparently measured and tracked. As such, if this proposal moves forward, we encourage the Commission to establish a process for reporting to utility customers on compliance with established metrics and any rate adjustments that may ultimately be made as a result.

Thank you for your consideration.

Caroline Colan, Legislative Liaison  
 Governor's Energy Office