



State of Maine
Office of the Public Advocate
112 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-

(207) 624-3687 (voice) 711 (TTY)
www.maine.gov/meopa

Heather Sanborn
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Testimony in Support
LD 197, “A Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study
Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State”**

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 support of LD 197, “Resolve, to Direct the Governor's Energy Office to Conduct a Study Regarding the Future of Electric Transmission Infrastructure in the State.”

This resolve directs the Governor’s Energy Office to conduct a study of matters related to the State’s future electric transmission infrastructure needs. It requires the office to coordinate with various state agencies involved in the siting, permitting and regulation of electric transmission infrastructure and solicit information from a stakeholder group to assist in conducting the study.

The ISO-NE 2050 Transmission Study demonstrates that there will substantial needs related to transmission infrastructure regionally over the next 25 years, as electricity demand grows and the sources of generation shift both in terms of technology type and location. Much of this infrastructure will need to be built in Maine, making our interconnection with the region more robust and unlocking the generation that has been built and will be built in Northern Maine and potentially off-shore. Indeed, the six states within the ISO-NE region are now working together on a longer-term transmission planning (LTTP) process that is expected to result later this year in a competitive RFP process for infrastructure projects to be built in Maine. Completing a more Maine-centric study of the state’s transmission infrastructure would be an appropriate follow-on step, informed by the 2050 Transmission Study and the LTTP process.

In the 131st session this bill was considered and passed out of committee, however it failed to be funded. We continue to support the need for this work to be completed. We will note that we would request an amendment to add the Office of the Public Advocate to the list of stakeholders. We have spoken with Senator Cyrway who was supportive of this change.

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 197 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