



**Testimony Neither for Nor Against LD 469**  
**An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity Generated in Canada via High-impact Electric**  
**Transmission Lines**  
**March 2025**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here on behalf of Versant Power to testify neither for nor against LD 469.

Our testimony is specific to section 4 of the proposed legislation, which directs the Governor's Energy Office to develop a plan and methods to encourage the expansion or relocation of businesses in Maine.

Versant Power always stands ready to work with new and existing businesses and help them answer questions about what relocating to Maine, or expanding within Maine, may mean for them from an electricity delivery-perspective. And should the Legislature choose to move forward with this legislation, we of course would be happy to work with the GEO and other stakeholders to develop these plans and strategies.

However, we would point out that our ability to achieve the desired outcomes in this legislation depend on an innumerable number of other variables, including state energy policy, taxation policy, land use and permitting policy, state incentives, as well as things that transmission and distribution utilities are statutorily prohibited from participating in- such as the generation of affordable electricity. We only control one side of the electric bill ledger.

In short, there are only so many things that are within the purview of a T&D utility's legal and regulatory obligations that allow us to support in the manner that this legislation proposes. There are many other stakeholders- both public and private- that carry equal and greater influence over the outcomes of the goals outlined in this legislation.

Secondly, Versant Power wants to be clear that this work does not come without a cost to our customers. Managing this process, and adequately reporting back to the Legislature annually will require staff resources. Should this legislation move forward we would be happy to elaborate more on what these costs might look like.

Lastly, we question whether this is the appropriate role for a transmission and distribution utility to play generally. Our statutory obligation, the one that we all can agree on, is to provide safe and reliable electricity to our customers. The scope of work that is sought in this legislation seems to exceed the role that the State asks us to prioritize, and we wonder if this charge may be better suited for policymakers, regulatory agencies, and economic development entities.

Thank you for your consideration and we would be happy to provide further information at your request.