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THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

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Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Mark W. Lawrence introducing

LD 596, Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission
Infrastructure

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

March 11, 2025

Good afternoon, Representative Sachs, and esteemed colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, I am Senator Mark Lawrence and I proudly represent Senate District 35, which includes the communities of Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, South Berwick, and York. I am here today to introduce LD 596, Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure.

This resolve provides that, pursuant to the requirements of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3132, subsection 6-C, the Legislature approves the construction and operation of a high-impact electric transmission line and appurtenant facilities to interconnect renewable energy resources in northern Maine with the electric grid operated by the New England independent system operator.

As we continue our transition away from fossil fuels and move towards clean, renewable energy we must also be sure we're ensuring transparency throughout the process. I think back to the Aroostook Renewable Gateway corridor project led by LS Power, a project many around the horseshoe may be familiar with. This project was well intended, aiming to bring low-cost, homegrown energy to Aroostook County down across Maine. The process however, could've been cleaner.

LR 596 brings increased oversight and transparency to the approval process, allowing greater public involvement in the legislative process. Before we get too far down the line, its important to create a process that allows concerns to be heard up front. It's my hope to create a more transparent process through this resolve.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill, I encourage this committee to vote Ought to Pass. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.