



AGC MAINE

THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

Testimony of Matt Marks in Support of LD 810
"An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines"
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
March 11, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, my name is Matt Marks. I am a Principal at Cornerstone Government Affairs, and I'm here today to testify on behalf of my client, the Associated General Contractors of Maine (AGC Maine). AGC Maine is a statewide commercial construction trade association and a Chapter of AGC America founded in 1918 with 27,000 contractors, suppliers, and service providers nationwide.

AGC Maine supports the modifications made through this bill to eliminate an unnecessary and cumbersome barrier, for the design, development, and construction of high-impact transmission lines. The policy debate on the transmission line should occur in advance of a bid process. Under the current system, potential developers respond to a procurement process under the assumption that the project will proceed under the typical regulatory oversight. The regulations, while expected, are complex, and the financial investment in the project increases with time.

Transmission development requires the developer to secure engineering services, environmental consultants, legal consultants, real estate experts and engage with contractors to discuss the project and determine cost estimates. They review each parcel that is under consideration and not only work with communities, but individual landowners. Attracting investors to Maine, to build projects that benefit our system when completed, should not be contingent upon another legislative process that is already approved in the initial legislative action. It places an enormous burden on the developer who responds to a procurement request and increases the risk, which adds costs.

Building in Maine is already a challenge, between existing laws and regulations a developer works through federal, state and local agencies and the public through those applications and associated public hearings. In addition, the Maine Public Utilities Commission conducts a thorough review, including a public hearing, within the certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN).

Maine needs to continue meeting electricity demand. A 2024 study from ISO New England, concluded that New England may need to invest close to \$1 billion in its electric transmission infrastructure each year, through 2050, to handle the increased electrical demands. AGC supports this bill and encourages the members of the Committee to vote in favor. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today and will be happy to answer any questions.