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Testimony in Support
LD 810, “An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines”
March 11, 2025

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 810, “An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines.”

This bill provides that a high-impact electric transmission line proposed by a state agency pursuant to a requirement of law or by a state agency with specific authority to propose such a line is deemed to have received the majority legislative approval required by 35-A MRSA §3132 (6-C).

Current law requires that, in addition to obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the Public Utilities Commission, a high-impact electric transmission line may not be constructed anywhere in the State without first obtaining the approval of the Legislature. This requirement introduces significant additional risk, uncertainty, and delays for anyone bidding to build a transmission line project, driving up costs for ratepayers.

Where the legislature has already passed legislation directing a transmission line to be proposed, requiring the project to come back again at a later stage for another round of legislative approval should not be required. Such a requirement will have the direct effect of costing ratepayers additional money by introducing additional risk and delay that must be priced into the modeled costs of the project from the beginning. As such we urge you to support this bill.

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 810 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