



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Gary Friedmann

7 Pine Street

Bar Harbor, ME 04609

Phone: (207) 460-7362

Gary.Friedmann@legislature.maine.gov

March 18, 2025

Testimony of Representative Gary Friedmann introducing

**LD 633, An Act Concerning the Restoration of Electricity During Emergencies for
Certain Medically Vulnerable Individuals Who Rely on Electronic Medical
Apparatuses**

Before the Joint Committee on Energy Utilities and Technology Committee

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, I am Representative Gary Friedmann, and I represent the towns of Bar Harbor, Lamoine, Mount Desert and the Cranberry Isles. Thank you for providing me the opportunity to present **LD 633, An Act Concerning the Restoration of Electricity During Emergencies for Certain Medically Vulnerable Individuals Who Rely on Electronic Medical Apparatuses.**

This bill requires investor-owned transmission and distribution utilities to include in their emergency response plans procedures for the identification of and outreach plans regarding customers who have a documented need of electricity for essential medical equipment.

With the increasing frequency of worsening storms, there has been a parallel increase in extended power outages. Since 2015, statistics from Versant has shown that the amount of service interruptions has increased, the average length of service interruptions have gotten longer and the time it takes for the utility to restore service to ratepayers has also grown longer.

Climate change guarantees that severe weather events will only get worse and more frequent. National studies focusing on outage frequency reveal that Maine leads the country in power outages lasting over 8 hours. With our aging population, extensive power outages threaten the health of vulnerable Mainers.

Data collected by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) and presented by the American Public Power Association (APPA) show that for the calendar year 2023, Maine continued to have the worst electric system reliability in the country. I have included three spreadsheets demonstrating this below, showing average outage minutes, number of outages and restoration time for the average customer.

The data includes major event days, reflecting an interruption or series of interruptions that exceed reasonable design and/or operational limits of the electric power system – in general, days with outages longer than 24 hours.

Table 1 sorts states in order of the average number of minutes each customer is out of power annually:

District 135: Bar Harbor, Cranberry Isles, Lamoine and Mount Desert

2023 Outage Data by State IOUs				
With Major Event Days - IEEE Standard				
Outage Minutes Sort				
	State	Outage Minutes (Average Time Customers are Without Power Annually)	Average # of Outages per customer Annually	Restore Time (Average Time for Customers to Get Power Back)
1	ME	2,065.75	3.46	591.42
2	LA	1,580.20	2.23	453.23
3	OK	1,124.04	1.79	581.26
4	HI	913.16	2.10	380.75
5	VT	782.40	2.51	311.71
6	KY	731.31	1.48	489.30
7	MS	723.35	1.61	395.33
8	AR	699.82	2.25	328.79
9	WV	671.22	2.14	296.23
10	TX	641.14	1.89	258.94
11	CA	635.93	2.17	230.71
12	MI	629.32	1.49	412.04
13	TN	495.40	2.07	238.86
14	MA	399.64	1.20	270.23
15	IN	396.65	1.21	308.83
16	NH	387.44	1.40	272.10
17	GA	365.14	1.75	208.65
18	VA	364.43	1.57	230.81
19	OH	355.08	1.16	295.13
20	IL	349.80	1.26	265.68
21	PA	348.40	1.28	253.13
22	MO	345.51	1.40	256.48
23	AL	302.30	1.50	202.07
24	NC	291.71	1.58	184.45
25	KS	246.95	1.25	190.43
26	NY	207.87	1.14	182.02
27	NV	199.65	1.22	148.46
28	SC	193.35	1.54	124.89
29	CT	189.80	0.88	214.71
30	MD	157.09	0.87	177.22
31	NM	156.29	1.13	134.45
32	WI	149.20	0.87	185.82
33	AZ	144.03	0.88	165.75
34	ID	143.48	1.11	131.59
35	OR	139.96	1.01	142.99
36	ND	135.83	1.24	107.18
37	NJ	134.80	0.97	125.88
38	WA	130.33	0.88	142.93
39	UT	129.76	0.97	133.77
40	MN	128.41	1.23	108.62
41	MT	122.73	1.17	105.93
42	DE	122.00	0.71	171.83
43	FL	113.53	1.05	115.62
44	CO	109.30	1.28	89.47
45	RI	104.59	0.78	133.75
46	SD	88.02	1.18	77.87
47	IA	80.00	0.83	96.39
48	AK	74.00	1.94	38.14
49	DC	71.87	0.37	194.24
50	WY	60.03	0.66	82.51
51	NE	No IOUs		
National		391.62	1.38	233.94

Table 2 sorts states by the average number of outages annually, per customer:

2023 Outage Data by State IOUs				
With Major Event Days - IEEE Standard				
Number of Outages Sort				
	State	Outage Minutes (Average Time Customers are Without Power Annually)	Average # of Outages per customer Annually	Restore Time (Average Time for Customers to Get Power Back)
1	ME	2,065.75	3.46	591.42
2	VT	782.40	2.51	311.71
3	AR	699.82	2.25	328.79
4	LA	1,580.20	2.23	453.23
5	CA	635.93	2.17	230.71
6	WV	671.22	2.14	296.23
7	HI	913.16	2.10	380.75
8	TN	495.40	2.07	238.86
9	AK	74.00	1.94	38.14
10	TX	641.14	1.89	258.94
11	OK	1,124.04	1.79	581.26
12	GA	365.14	1.75	208.65
13	MS	723.35	1.61	395.33
14	NC	291.71	1.58	184.45
15	VA	364.43	1.57	230.81
16	SC	193.35	1.54	124.89
17	AL	302.30	1.50	202.07
18	MI	629.32	1.49	412.04
19	KY	731.31	1.48	489.30
20	MO	345.51	1.40	256.48
21	NH	387.44	1.40	272.10
22	CO	109.30	1.28	89.47
23	PA	348.40	1.28	253.13
24	IL	349.80	1.26	265.68
25	KS	246.95	1.25	190.43
26	ND	135.83	1.24	107.18
27	MN	128.41	1.23	108.62
28	NV	199.65	1.22	148.46
29	IN	396.65	1.21	308.83
30	MA	399.64	1.20	270.23
31	SD	88.02	1.18	77.87
32	MT	122.73	1.17	105.93
33	OH	355.08	1.16	295.13
34	NY	207.87	1.14	182.02
35	NM	156.29	1.13	134.45
36	ID	143.48	1.11	131.59
37	FL	113.53	1.05	115.62
38	OR	139.96	1.01	142.99
39	NJ	134.80	0.97	125.88
40	UT	129.76	0.97	133.77
41	AZ	144.03	0.88	165.75
42	CT	189.80	0.88	214.71
43	WA	130.33	0.88	142.93
44	MD	157.09	0.87	177.22
45	WI	149.20	0.87	185.82
46	IA	80.00	0.83	96.39
47	RI	104.59	0.78	133.75
48	DE	122.00	0.71	171.83
49	WY	60.03	0.66	82.51
50	DC	71.87	0.37	194.24
51	NE	No IOUs		
National		391.62	1.38	233.94

Table 3 sorts the states by restoration time:

2023 Outage Data by State IOUs				
With Major Event Days - IEEE Standard				
Restore Time Sort				
	State	Outage Minutes (Average Time Customers are Without Power Annually)	Average # of Outages per customer Annually	Restore Time (Average Time for Customers to Get Power Back)
1	ME	2,065.75	3.46	591.42
2	OK	1,124.04	1.79	581.26
3	KY	731.31	1.48	489.30
4	LA	1,580.20	2.23	453.23
5	MI	629.32	1.49	412.04
6	MS	723.35	1.61	395.33
7	HI	913.16	2.10	380.75
8	AR	699.82	2.25	328.79
9	VT	782.40	2.51	311.71
10	IN	396.65	1.21	308.83
11	WV	671.22	2.14	296.23
12	OH	355.08	1.16	295.13
13	NH	387.44	1.40	272.10
14	MA	399.64	1.20	270.23
15	IL	349.80	1.26	265.68
16	TX	641.14	1.89	258.94
17	MO	345.51	1.40	256.48
18	PA	348.40	1.28	253.13
19	TN	495.40	2.07	238.86
20	VA	364.43	1.57	230.81
21	CA	635.93	2.17	230.71
22	CT	189.80	0.88	214.71
23	GA	365.14	1.75	208.65
24	AL	302.30	1.50	202.07
25	DC	71.87	0.37	194.24
26	KS	246.95	1.25	190.43
27	WI	149.20	0.87	185.82
28	NC	291.71	1.58	184.45
29	NY	207.87	1.14	182.02
30	MD	157.09	0.87	177.22
31	DE	122.00	0.71	171.83
32	AZ	144.03	0.88	165.75
33	NV	199.65	1.22	148.46
34	OR	139.96	1.01	142.99
35	WA	130.33	0.88	142.93
36	NM	156.29	1.13	134.45
37	UT	129.76	0.97	133.77
38	RI	104.59	0.78	133.75
39	ID	143.48	1.11	131.59
40	NJ	134.80	0.97	125.88
41	SC	193.35	1.54	124.89
42	FL	113.53	1.05	115.62
43	MN	128.41	1.23	108.62
44	ND	135.83	1.24	107.18
45	MT	122.73	1.17	105.93
46	IA	80.00	0.83	96.39
47	CO	109.30	1.28	89.47
48	WY	60.03	0.66	82.51
49	SD	88.02	1.18	77.87
50	AK	74.00	1.94	38.14
51	NE	No IOUs		
National		391.62	1.38	233.94

Maine's investor owned utilities have the worst reliability in the country in terms of minutes of outages, the number of outages and restoration time.

However, our concerns are born out of the experiences of other states. For example, when Hurricane Ida struck Louisiana, 80% of the deaths that occurred resulted from an inability to access electricity that could power lifesaving medical apparatuses. In New York, after Tropical Storm Isaias hit Long Island, the poor response of electrical utilities endangered the health of New Yorkers, prompting the passage of a bill similar to that being presented to you today.

We are fortunate that this bill is intended to be a preemptive measure as opposed to a response to a loss of life. As we continue to face increasingly severe weather, this bill will help ensure the health and safety of some of our most vulnerable citizens. Please support the passage of LD 633.

I am happy to answer any questions.