



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony in Support of LD860, An Act to Require Competitive Electricity Providers to Provide Certain Information to the Public Advocate

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Lucy Hochschartner, Climate and Clean Energy Director at Maine Conservation Voters (MCV). MCV 14,000 members and supporters are building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I am here today to testify in support of LD860, An Act to Require Competitive Electricity Providers to Provide Certain Information to the Public Advocate.

The Office of the Public Advocate is an incredible resource to the people of Maine. In an electric grid dominated by large, multinational corporations, highly paid executives, and a byzantine regulatory system, their office is unique in their role in fighting solely for the ratepayers — the people of Maine. As a small office with a large task, the public advocate can only do their work if they have all the information. Without good data, their office cannot analyze issues or find solutions. Just like utilities, competitive electricity providers are key entities that are charging customers. It only makes sense that the Public Advocate receive regular reports of information from them as well.

This bill could not come at a more critical time. As this year's ERAC report made clear, more than 100,000 Mainers are struggling to pay their electric bills.¹ The scale of suffering is massive, and unnecessary. While this change is not enough, it is a critical step forward. I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD860, An Act to Require Competitive Electricity Providers to Provide Certain Information to the Public Advocate. Thank you.

¹https://www.maine.gov/meopa/sites/maine.gov.meopa/files/inline-files/Electric%20Ratepayer%20Advisory%20Council%20Report%20December%201%2C%202024_0.pdf