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PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Testimony Neither For Nor Against
LD 300, “Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Study Expanding the
Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in
the State”**

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 neither for nor against LD 300, “Resolve, to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Study Expanding the Use of Hydroelectric Power and the Development of a Geothermal Power Plant in the State.”

Maximizing the use of our own hydroelectric resources and determining whether Maine has the potential for enhanced geothermal development requires further study. We believe that advancing homegrown renewable energy can align with ratepayer interests—provided the technology is available, safe, and ready for deployment. A data-driven investigation of the opportunities in Maine will allow us to assess their potential. We would however recommend that the Governor’s Energy Office is the correct agency to conduct this study rather than the PUC. We recommend that the Committee amend the bill to shift responsibility to the GEO.

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 300 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