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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