

Glenn "Chip" Curry Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE 132nd Legislature

3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Chip Curry introducing LD 912, "An Act to Address the Use of Electricity by Data Centers" Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology April 3, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Chip Curry. I represent Senate District 11, which encompasses all 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County. Thank you for the opportunity to present LD 912, "An Act to Address the Use of Electricity by Data Centers," along with an amendment that replaces the original bill language, which you all have before you today.

Currently, Maine law allows entities generating electricity on-site for their own use, their tenants, or nearby properties to avoid being classified as a transmission and distribution (T&D) utility. This permission allows for commercial-level, behind-the-meter electricity power agreements between generators and their tenants. It also applies to a commercial or industrial site that the generating entity or its predecessor served without using a public utility's transmission and distribution plant before December 31, 2018.

This is the situation of the former Great Northern Paper Mill site in Millinocket. The potential for behind-the-meter power agreements at the former mill site is a significant economic benefit and an important economic development asset for the site and the region.

The amended version of LD 912 seeks to limit the amount of power that can be promised to data centers, ensuring that the resource is available to promote the broader economic development goals of the site and the region.

This bill was brought to me by those working on the redevelopment of the former Great Northern Paper Mill site, and I believe they are here to give testimony today.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of LD 912, as amended. I am happy to answer any questions; however, I may need to defer the more detailed, technical ones to those planning to provide testimony behind me.

Sincerely,

Chip Curry

State Senator, District 11

Representing the twenty-six rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County