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**Testimony of Representative Melanie Sachs introducing
LD 1240, An Act to Align the Schedules for Climate Change Protection Plans and Grid-enhancing Technology Reviews with the Integrated Grid Planning Process
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**

Senator Lawrence and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Melanie Sachs and I am honored to represent the community of Freeport in the Maine Legislature.

I am before you today to introduce *LD 1240, An Act to Align the Schedules for Climate Change Protection Plans and Grid-enhancing Technology Reviews with the Integrated Grid Planning Process*, a bill submitted on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

Introduction: In recent years, the Legislature passed several pieces of legislation that require review of, and reporting for, grid enhancement and planning by the Public Utilities Commission as well as the transmission and distribution utilities, and set deadlines for those reviews and reports.

Purpose: This bill adjusts the time frames for the periodic review of grid enhancing technology by the PUC and the submission of climate change protection plans by the transmission and distribution utilities to better align these exercises with the integrated grid planning proceeding.

Explanation:

- Current law requires the Commission to review available grid-enhancing technology that could be implemented by a large investor-owned transmission and distribution utility to reduce or defer the need for investment in grid infrastructure. This review occurs every five years. The first was required to commence on January 1, and the next review would be 2030. This bill moves the next review to 2027, as an update to the 2025 report.
- Additionally, all transmission and distribution utilities (including consumer-owned transmission and distribution utilities) must submit a 10-year plan to the PUC that includes specific actions for addressing the expected effects of climate change on the assets of the utility that are needed to transmit and distribute electricity to customers.

Utilities are required to submit this 10-year plan to the Commission every three years. The next deadline is December 31, 2026. This bill moves that date slightly, to May 1, 2027 and changes the timeframe to every 5 years.

- The required reports on grid-enhancing technologies and climate change impact on utility assets are critical information for the PUC's integrated grid planning process. The PUC conducts its integrated grid planning process every five years. The next proceeding is required to be opened on November 1, 2027.

Outcome: This bill positions the deadlines of the three reports to better align the information, and to allow the most current plans to be completed and submitted just before the integrated grid planning process begins. Additional benefits of this alignment will be outlined by the PUC, particularly for the consumer-owned utilities.

I recommend the Public Utilities Commission, per our Committee rules, be allowed to address the committee next to further discuss the proposed legislation.

Thank you for your time, and for the opportunity to submit this bill for your consideration.