



Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 8, 2025

RE: LD 1270, An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources

Dear Chair Lawrence, Chair Sachs, and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee:

My name is Ania Wright and I am Maine Audubon's Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation nonprofit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1270, *An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources*.

Maine Audubon enthusiastically supports the creation of the Department of Energy Resources, which would allow for more consistency in the planning and management of Maine's energy system and for the effective prioritization of affordable, reliable, and clean energy for Maine people. The coordination and long-term planning of our energy resources is critical to increasing resilience of Maine's grid and energy infrastructure, which experiences some of the highest outages in the country and is vulnerable to the increasing climate change fueled storms and extreme weather events. This initiative is a common sense change that both adequately acknowledges the responsibilities of the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) and creates more consistency.

Maine Audubon is also aware of amendments to the current legislation provided by the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) and the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). Maine Audubon believes that the current legislation could be made stronger by these proposals, and encourages the committee to consider both amendments. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ania Wright
Policy Advocate