



April 8, 2025

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

Testifying: In support

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is Kathleen Newman, Vice President of Government Affairs for Central Maine Power Company, submitting testimony in support of LD 1270: An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources.

Over just the past year, the Governor's Energy Office has released its Pathways to 2040 report, authored the State Energy Plan, administered grants for grid resiliency, workforce training, and community redevelopment, and lent its expertise to the transmission planning process at ISO-NE to bring northern Maine renewables online. At CMP, we are proud to have partnered with the GEO to bring \$65 million to Maine for grid stability, planning, and grid administration technology to help incorporate more renewables and improve reliability for our customers. The office's engagement in electrification efforts, climate resiliency planning, and thoughtful consideration of how to bring cost effective electric supply to our state all demonstrate a cabinet-level dedication to serving Maine. Elevation of the GEO to a cabinet-level recognizes the importance of these initiatives.

This bill establishes the Department of Energy Resources, and empowers it to undertake the duties already within the scope of the GEO's authority, while also undertaking certain planning and study duties, as well as administering procurements for energy and RECs to support achievement of Maine's emissions reductions and renewable energy goals.

CMP supports the creation of the DOER to reinforce Maine's energy planning, climate resilience, and policy development, but we also encourage the Committee to carefully consider the relationship between the new DOER and the Maine Public Utilities Commission, and to consider the role of utilities in negotiating the commercial terms of energy contracts, which Maine utilities have not negotiated since deregulation. We look forward to further discussions on these topics, and the proposal overall, as the bill proceeds.

Thank you.