



**Maine Labor Climate Council**  
**Testimony in Support of LD 1270**  
**“An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources”**  
**Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology**  
**Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. My name is Chace Jackson and I am a partner at the Resurgam Group, where we are proud to represent the Maine Labor Climate Council (MLCC). MLCC is an organization of 20 unions dedicated to fighting income inequality and climate change for the benefit of working Mainers.

I am before you today to offer testimony in support of LD 1270, which proposes the establishment of the Department of Energy Resources, elevating it to a cabinet level position. We also testified in support of Part LL in the biennial budget, language which corresponded to establishing the new department.

According to the Governor’s Energy Office’s (GEO) 2023 Maine Clean Energy Report, we have seen 6 percent job growth in Maine’s clean energy sector from 2018 to 2022<sup>1</sup>, representing nearly 7 percent of total employment growth in Maine over that same period. This coincides with GEO having secured more than \$200M in federal funding over the last 3 years for clean energy infrastructure – all while taking on a more expansive role in leading our state’s energy system planning and management to provide more reliable and affordable energy.

Given this impressive and encouraging job growth and investment in our state, elevation of the Governor’s Energy Office (CEO) to a department-level office just makes sense. It is MLCC’s hope that this move will allow for a more integrated, comprehensive, and consistent approach to the planning and management of our energy system.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/2024-05/2023%20MECEIR%20Report%20Final.pdf>

Federal funding secured by the state requires ensuring the long-term administrative and policy expertise to manage these significant funds. The creation of an agency would also allow their staff to benefit from collective bargaining rights, which would in turn support the ability to retain highly qualified professional staff who are dedicated to public service.

As GEO makes the shift to a cabinet-level agency, we see this new department leading integrated energy and economic planning, with particular focus on ensuring high-quality jobs in emerging clean energy sectors. GEO's department-level elevation is an opportunity to build into its new mandate dedicated staff capacity, improving the interagency coordination needed to ensure that this once-in-a-generation energy transition happens smoothly, affordably, and fairly for Maine's workers and working families.

We at MLCC share the view of the Governor's Administration that climate change is one of the most pressing issues for Maine's future. We are hopeful that the elevation of the current energy office to a cabinet level position will provide the kind of long-term vision and planning that also recognizes Maine's clean energy job growth should include strong labor standards that ensures workers in these skilled trades don't get left behind.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.