



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony in Support of LD1270, An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Nick Janzen, and I am the Director of Policy and Partnerships with Maine Conservation Voters (MCV). MCV represents over 14,000 members and supporters who are building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I am here today to testify in support of LD 1270, An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources.

Our energy system is at an intersection of crises. Our energy system must become more affordable, more resilient, and it must help us to decarbonize as quickly as possible. It's no small task. And as we move to an electrified future, each of us will only be relying on this system more — for our heat, our lights, our transportation. At such a critical inflection point for the state of Maine, it only makes sense that the Governor's Energy Office becomes the Department of Energy Resources. This change would align Maine with our peer states, reflect an accurate prioritization of the energy system we use everyday, and allow us to expand on the already great work that GEO has done to lead the state thus far.

And while we do support the bill as written, we also support the small revisions being circulated by a number of environmental groups that you've heard about today. Like others, we would be happy to provide a draft at the work session. These edits are tightly focused on creating a department with a stronger climate mandate, providing greater direction to work on emerging issues like demand flexibility, aligning the oil dependency targets with the Maine Energy Plan, and ensuring that the procurement section takes into account the needs of all Maine's customers. These edits are not in conflict with the language as written, and are merely suggestions to strengthen it.

We are excited to support this bill and urge you to support the Department of Energy Resources.

Sincerely,
Nick Janzen