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**Testimony Neither for Nor Against
LD 1251, “Resolve, to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Further Reduce
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Energy Contracts”**

April 9, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint
Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

My name is Heather Sanborn, here today as Public Advocate, to testify neither for
nor against LD 1251, “Resolve, to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Further Reduce
Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Energy Contracts.”

We strongly support the efforts to explore various strategies for energy cost reduction
that are required by this resolve. Our only caveat is that we would prefer that the language
require consideration near-term solutions only, i.e. those that could have the impact of
lowering ratepayer costs in the next ten years. The OPA has concerns about the ultimate
impact on ratepayers if either long-term contracts are entered into, or capital projects
undertaken, that do not accord with future greenhouse gas initiatives over the time horizon
of the contract or capital investment, causing ratepayers to bear related stranded costs.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this testimony. The Office
of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 1251 and will
be available if requested for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of
this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Sanborn
Public Advocate