

Testimony of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce
In Support of
LD 1792, *An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State*
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
May 15, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Kimberly Lindlof, and I am the President and CEO of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce. It is a pleasure to appear before you. Thank you for your public service.

On behalf of the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, I respectfully urge you to enact LD 1792, "*An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State*" or a similar bill or resolve, to stabilize and more fairly share the burden of stranded cost recovery.

In the Waterville region, we know about recovery, because that is what we are doing. With help from scores of small and large businesses, Colby and Thomas Colleges, the Alford and Lunder and other families, we have built a recovery from the loss of Scott Paper, Hathaway Shirt Factory, and too many other closed manufacturers. We are proud that the Waterville region shines again!

But through this recovery, we have learned some hard lessons. First, it is easier to keep the good jobs you have than to replace them. Second, manufacturing dies gradually, a death by a thousand injuries. We need to stop injuries to prevent deaths. Unnecessarily higher energy costs are a serious, eventually lethal injury. I am confident we have all learned this lesson.

Now let me share with you a nightmare. A tractor trailer backs up to the Huhtamaki plant and loads up one of their manufacturing machines. The truck drives off to Alabama or Indiana, where energy costs are far lower. It is a nightmare because it is hard to imagine a better employer. Nearly 500 union jobs, lifetime jobs, making molded plates and cup holders from 100% recycled paper fiber, lots of energy efficient investments and sustainability initiatives and get this – every summer, about 100 sons and daughters work to earn college money. The way jobs ought to be. We lived this nightmare in Winslow when Scott Paper shuttered its mill and moved the jobs to Alabama.

Let's not let this happen again. Please, at this tumultuous time, on this – our time – do not let it be said we did not do all we could to keep what is good.

I would be pleased to answer any questions.