



Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
% Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

May 15, 2025

Re: Public Hearing, LD 1792, An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in opposition to LD 1792, *An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State*, on behalf of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable energy producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. Our member companies include wind, solar, hydropower, biomass, and tidal energy generators and developers of such projects, as well as companies that provide services to those producers and developers, such as environmental engineers, electricians, and general contractors.

LD 1792, as modified by the sponsor's amendment shared with interested parties on May 12, 2025, proposes to (1) require the Maine Public Utilities Commission (Commission) to issue an order implementing the provisions of a stipulation filed in Commission Docket Number 2024-00137 on January 24, 2025 and (2) compel the Commission to develop draft legislation to codify the same stipulation. MREA opposes this legislation because it flagrantly disregards the Commission's regulatory and adjudicatory responsibility, threatening to undermine the Commission's authority and the manner in which Maine regulates electric, gas, telephone, and water utility rates and services.

Many of the ideas within the stipulation are worthy of consideration by the Maine Legislature, such as absolving LIAP recipients of stranded cost responsibility and modifying rate class composition. It is reasonable for the Maine Legislature to direct the Commission to commence a proceeding on those topics or others and, in very limited circumstances when the Maine Legislature has thoroughly analyzed (as the Commission would) a particular topic typically regulated by the Commission, legislate such matters. However, codification of a stipulation that was rejected by the Commission after a lengthy adjudicatory proceeding to which many entities actively participated is beyond the pale.

MREA was an active party in the docket within which the stipulation was filed (2024-00137). Though MREA did not join the stipulation (nor did we oppose it), some of our

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members did. MREA's membership agrees that skirting adjudicated outcomes through legislation is exceptionally poor precedent that would wither the authority of the Commission and with it critical utility regulation expertise and process.

MREA strongly urges the Committee to vote 'Ought Not to Pass' on LD 1792.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eliza Donoghue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.  
Executive Director