

Lina Martinez Nocito
Maine Youth Power
May 15, 2025

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

My name is Lina Martinez Nocito and I am a resident of Mount Vernon, a student at the University of Maine at Farmington, and a legislative organizer for Maine Youth Power, a rural, youth-led movement fighting for human dignity, equity, and a livable future for all. I'm here today to urge you to support LD 1949.

This thoughtful, strategic bill would benefit all Mainers in several key ways, and further not only climate mitigation, but climate justice. It would aid in our transition to clean electricity, an essential aspect of climate action—which, as a young person, is hugely important to me. It would require the Public Utilities Commission to incorporate environmental justice principles into its work, which would support the development of equitable energy regulations. And it would protect Mainers from the aggressive disconnection practices that resulted in over 440,000 disconnection notices being sent out in 2023 alone, with specific protections for particularly vulnerable Mainers.¹ No one, least of all those who are older, care for a very young child, or rely on electricity to manage a medical condition or disability, should face disconnection due to astronomical electric bills. As electricity costs continue to increase due to climate change, the protections LD 1949 would put in place are increasingly necessary.

For these reasons, I support LD 1949—I hope you'll do the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lina Martinez Nocito

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<https://www.maine.gov/meopa/about/news/maine-public-advocate-urges-low-income-electric-customers-seek-help-bills>