

LaCroix, Linda M.

From: Reu <reuben.m.mahar@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 8:58 PM
To: LaCroix, Linda M.

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Hello!

My name is Reuben Mahar, and I'm from Waldoboro. I've sent the below message to the EUT committee, as well as sponsors of LD 1963. Is that enough to be submitted as testimony? If it's not, is that something you could help me with?

Thanks for your time.

Reuben Mahar

28 Manktown Rd, Waldoboro, ME 04572

207-907-6704

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

My name is Reuben Mahar. I've owned a home in Waldoboro since 2012. I grew up in Maine and plan to spend the majority of my life here. I'm writing today in support of LD 1963, *An Act to Protect and Compensate Public Utility Whistleblowers*.

I believe in spending taxpayer dollars wisely and doing everything possible to help my fellow Mainers age in place and enjoy a better quality of life. A reliable utility system is part of that foundation—and this bill helps make that system more accountable to the people it serves.

We've all seen rates go up, with explanations that often feel disconnected from the service we receive. At the same time, utilities operating as monopolies—some of them foreign-owned—have reported record profits. In a free market, people could take their business elsewhere. But in this system, Mainers have no choice. That's why oversight matters.

LD 1963 is a smart, focused approach to that oversight. It gives utility workers and contractors a safe, legal, and confidential way to report serious issues—whether it's financial mismanagement, environmental shortcuts, or safety risks. It follows a model that has worked for decades at the federal level, and it has the potential to save Maine ratepayers money while preventing harm before it occurs.

This bill also makes sure no one is penalized based on anonymous tips alone. That safeguard matters. The goal isn't to punish—it's to shine a light on problems before they become scandals.

I believe LD 1963 is a commonsense measure that supports honest workers, helps regulators do their jobs more effectively, and protects the people of Maine. I respectfully urge the committee to support it.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.

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Reuben Mahar
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