



STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission
Neither For Nor Against
LD 1963, An Act to Protect and Compensate Public Utility Whistleblowers

May 15, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology (Committee), my name is Deirdre Schneider, testifying neither for nor against the sponsor's amendment to LD 1963, An Act to Protect and Compensate Public Utility Whistleblowers on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

LD 1963 requires the Commission to establish by rule a process by which an individual may provide information to the Commission regarding a public utility's conduct. It also requires the Commission to establish a process by rule by which a whistleblower may apply to and receive from the Commission an award of a portion of a covered sanction against a utility if the Commission finds that the information provided by the whistleblower was material to a Commission investigation leading to the imposition of certain sanctions against the utility.

While the Commission understands that similar processes are used federally regarding whistleblowers the Commission is not sure a reward-based approach is necessarily the best approach in these circumstances; however, this is a policy call for the Legislature to decide.

Otherwise, the Commission can undertake the requirements of LD 1963 within existing resources. In the future, if this leads to an increase in work for the Commission we will address resource needs in future budget proposals.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information for the work session.