



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony of Sarah Woodbury, Legislative Director, Maine Conservation Voters
In Support of LD 838 “*An Act to Establish the Maine Clean Energy Authority*”
Before the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee
January 20, 2026

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. My name is Sarah Woodbury and I’m the new Legislative Director at Maine Conservation Voters. MCV is a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy.

I am here to testify in support of LD 838, “*An Act to Establish the Maine Clean Energy Authority*”. LD 838 would establish the Maine Clean Energy Authority, a public entity designed to oversee the development, financing, planning and coordination for the buildout of energy and transmission infrastructure within State borders.

Maine has set a goal of transitioning to clean energy by 2040. We are making good progress in meeting this goal. Setting up a clean energy authority would help the state meet those goals at less cost. The Maine clean energy authority would be set up similar to the Maine transportation authority (MTA), utilizing the same structure including board appointments, terms, meeting schedules and other functions laid out in section 10502.

If this bill passes, Maine would not be the only state with an energy authority. Other states that have them include CO, ID, NE, ND, CA, NY and NM. Nebraska, Idaho, and North Dakota are states similar in size to Maine and are all rural states with harsh winters. They are good states to look at to show that a clean energy authority can be successful in a small, rural state like Maine.

We need to think creatively about how to lower electricity bills for Mainers. Maine’s transition to clean energy saved ratepayers over \$21 million dollars according to the Governor’s energy office¹. This is good news but we can do more to help lower costs. Setting up a Clean Energy Authority would help do this. It would provide low interest loans to help finance projects, which

¹ Gartner, E. (2025, June 30). *Legislation charts Maine’s pathway to 100% clean energy by 2040*. The Maine Monitor. <https://themainemonitor.org/clean-energy-2040-legislation>

means there would be less expenses trickling down to ratepayers. To be clear, this is a long-term solution. Ratepayers aren't going to immediately see a deduction in their rates on their bills. What it will do is help to lower cost increases in the future, keeping rates down for Maine ratepayers. It isn't a flashy, quick fix but rather a common sense program that will help keep rates down for ratepayers and help ensure a just clean energy transition for Maine.

We urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 838