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January 22, 2026

Testimony in Support: LD 2038, An Act to Require Maine Transmission and Distribution Utility Participation in a Regional Transmission Organization

Greetings Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Alf Anderson, and I am an Associate State Director for Advocacy and Outreach for AARP Maine. AARP is a non-profit, non-partisan social mission organization with more than 200,000 members across the state. We work on a range of energy issues at the state level. The core principles we approach this work with include affordability, reliability, and accountability.

I'm here today to testify in support of LD 2038 because this simple change could provide cost savings for Maine electricity ratepayers.

By making Central Maine Power's (CMP) and Versant Power's participation in ISO-New England a requirement under state law—something that simply formalizes their already-established membership— would void the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) bonus return on equity for being in an RTO. This common sense move would generate direct savings for Maine electricity customers.

With electricity affordability an urgent concern, this proposal offers a quick, practical, and cost-effective way to lower electricity rates. We thank Representative Kessler and the Office of the Public Advocate for bringing this legislation forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on this important bill. If I can answer any questions or provide any further information, you can reach me at aanderson@aarp.org or 207.330.1147.

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