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**Testimony in Support of LD 2112,  
An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Form Community Choice Aggregation Programs to  
Procure Electricity**

by Rebecca Schultz

Senior Advocate for Climate and Clean Energy

January 22, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Rebecca Schultz. I am a Senior Advocate for Climate and Clean Energy at the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM). NRCM is a nonpartisan membership organization that has been working for more than 65 years to protect, restore, and conserve Maine's environment, now and for future generations. On behalf of our nearly 20,000 members and supporters, NRCM testifies in support of the sponsor's amendment to LD 2112, An Act to Authorize Municipalities to Form Community Choice Aggregation Programs to Procure Electricity.

Community Choice Aggregation enables municipalities to pool their residential and small business electricity load in order to purchase alternative supply contracts that can serve their communities better than the default option selected by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) annually every November.

LD 2112 addresses the failure of the competitive retail market to adequately serve residential and small business customers. In Maine, more than 90% of residential and small business customers use the default supply option, and those that use competitive energy providers often end up paying more than they would have on the standard offer. In contrast, nearly all of Maine's medium and large commercial and industrial customers use third-party competitive suppliers to serve their energy needs.

LD 2112 aims to help remedy this problem by providing communities with autonomy over their energy consumption, empowering them to leverage their buying power to seek competitive pricing.

Across the U.S., 10 states – Virginia, Rhode Island, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Maryland, Illinois, and California – have enacted Community Choice Aggregation legislation; 8 states have active programs.<sup>1</sup>

While many of these programs have historically been oriented toward achieving higher levels of renewable energy generation, a primary goal for communities is lower prices.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.leanenergyus.org/cca-by-state>

In Massachusetts, where enabling statute dates back to 1997, 45% of municipalities covering 41% of the state's population procure their own energy,<sup>2</sup> saving customers \$70 million per year.<sup>3</sup>

A recent survey of participating municipalities in Massachusetts found that 80% of participants saved money in comparison to the default supply service, with an average rate reduction of 0.88 cents per kWh, saving customers around \$100 per year off their bills.

In New Hampshire, where enabling laws were enacted more recently, the state launched its first programs in 2023 and now nearly half the population has access to the program.<sup>4</sup>

In New Hampshire, a statewide nonprofit called Community Power Coalition plays a leading role in educating, organizing, and providing consulting services, including supply procurement. As of 2024, it served nearly 200,000 customers and provided more than \$20 million in total savings.<sup>5</sup>

By permitting enrollment on an opt-out basis, LD 2112 provides a crucial tweak to Maine's current rules, empowering towns, cities, and counties with local support to offer its residents alternatives to the default standard offer.

Plans would be subject to approval by the PUC, while all billing would continue to run through the transmission and distribution utilities. Customers would be allowed to migrate on or off a plan without penalty, and protections for lower-income customers would guarantee uninterrupted access to assistance programs.

Community Choice Aggregation won't be a quick fix to our high electricity prices, and it won't be a solution for everyone, but it will give towns, cities, and counties across the state options to make their own energy decisions and provide competitive retail prices for residents.

We urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 2112. I'd be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.leanenergyus.org/massachusetts>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.mma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UMASS\\_cce\\_aggregation\\_final\\_report\\_3.28.23.pdf](https://www.mma.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/UMASS_cce_aggregation_final_report_3.28.23.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.concordmonitor.com/2025/01/05/community-power-electricity-towns-cities-counties-new-hampshire-2024-58411703/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.communitypowernh.gov/\\_files/ugd/202f2e\\_cc97c4e1d90048eebe221883a4456745.pdf](https://www.communitypowernh.gov/_files/ugd/202f2e_cc97c4e1d90048eebe221883a4456745.pdf)