



February 11, 2021

Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair
Representative Seth Berry, Chair
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in support of LD 9, “An Act To Promote Renewable Energy by Authorizing a Power-to-fuel Pilot Program”

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, my name is Jeremy Payne and I am the Executive Director of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable energy producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. MREA members sustainably manufacture electricity from hydro, biomass, wind, tidal, and solar.

The MREA testifies in support of LD 9 because of its potential to help reduce curtailment on the output of existing renewable projects due to system constraints. Importantly, it appears able to accomplish this without the need for additional transmission infrastructure. Last year, the Governor’s Energy Office delivered a report identifying the economic challenges that transmission constraints place on the ability for new generators to come online in Maine. As this committee is well aware, siting any type of development in Maine can be a costly and time-consuming endeavor as we continue to diversify our energy sources (from grid-scale to distributed generation) – it is vital that Maine ratepayers are able to receive cost-effective, clean, and Maine-made energy where possible. This proposal seems able to accomplish these important goals. We respectfully encourage the committee to vote ought to pass.¹

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremy N. Payne
Executive Director

¹ All of the views expressed in this document do not necessarily represent the positions of each of our members. Since MREA represents a broad spectrum of companies, we anticipate some members may submit comments of their own.