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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

April 2, 2021

Governor Janet T. Mills
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Governor Mills,

The Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (committee) has held a public hearing and two work sessions on LD 82, Resolve, To Provide for Participation of the State in the Planning and Negotiations of the Atlantic Loop Energy Project. This resolve requires the State, through your office to inform the Prime Minister of Canada and the Premiers of the provinces of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Québec that Maine has a direct interest in all aspects of the Atlantic Loop Energy project and request participation in the planning and negotiations relative to the creation, operation and management of this project.

The committee feels it is important for Maine to participate in the early discussions of this project because of the potential opportunities it presents for the State and the time-sensitive nature of regional planning already underway. We believe this project could provide economic and environmental benefits to electric ratepayers, including the potential to be a path for export of Maine-produced renewable energy to Canada. Regional planning is already underway with the support of the Canadian federal government via the Atlantic Clean Power Planning Committee, co-chaired by Natural Resources Canada and the Nova Scotia Department of Intergovernmental Affairs. The release of their final *Clean Power Roadmap for Atlantic Canada* report is expected imminently, of which Maine has already missed the opportunity to join discussions as an official observer like the Provincial Government of Québec and their state-owned utility Hydro-Québec.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Office of the Governor commit to engaging the Atlantic Clean Power Planning Committee in discussions on this project, and to use any and all avenues it has at its disposal to participate in those discussions. Furthermore, we request that the committee be informed of any discussions or developments related to this project. We would prefer to accomplish the goals of LD 82 through this channel, rather than through the passage of legislation.

We look forward to your response on our request. If you have any questions relating to this request, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Mark W. Lawrence
Senate Chair

Seth A. Berry
House Chair

cc: Member, Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
Dan Burgess, Director, Governor's Energy Office