



**Testimony in Support of LD 251,  
An Act Regarding Public Utility Assessments, Fees and Penalties  
by  
Sue Ely, Climate & Clean Energy Policy Advocate and Staff Attorney**

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. My name is Sue Ely and I am a staff attorney at the Natural Resources Council of Maine. I am pleased to offer this testimony in support of LD 251, An Act Regarding Public Utility Assessments, Fees and Penalties.

NRCM supports this bill because it ensures that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has the resources it needs to do its important work regulating Maine's public utilities. It also contains reporting requirements that should provide a more detailed accounting for how the PUC and Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) are allocating resources and filing fees.

This legislation would prevent a situation where the filing fees collected by the PUC fail to keep pace with the costs of increasingly complicated proceedings and would increase the PUC's ability to robustly engage in proceedings on behalf of Maine and ratepayers.

As the demands on the PUC grow, the fees, penalties, and assessments must keep pace for the PUC to successfully implement its role of protecting Maine ratepayers.

For these reasons, NRCM supports LD 251, An Act Regarding Public Utility Assessments, Fees and Penalties.