

Testimony in Support of
LD 251, An Act Regarding Public Utility Assessments, Fees and Penalties

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. My name is Debra Hart. I am a resident of Manchester, Maine and I own Hart Public Policy. I am speaking to you today on behalf of my client, the Dirigo Electric Cooperative in support of LD 251.

The purpose of LD 251 mimics a similar bill introduced in the last session, LD 1881 also sponsored by Representative Berry. Like that bill, it seeks to have the PUC and the OPA report annually to the EUT Committee on the how it assesses the various public utilities, between investor-owned utilities and consumer-owned utilities, for the work these agencies provide to each category of utility.

It would seem to make sense to have the utilities that are the cost-drivers to bear the brunt of those regulatory costs. The consumer-owned electric utilities do not expend a lot of time and money at the Commission in rate cases or other hearings, so it would seem reasonable that the expenses that are incurred should be allocated and recovered from the utilities that are causing the costs that are incurred.

The apportionment of the assessment between investor-owned and consumer-owned utilities for both the PUC and the OPA seems both fair and equitable .

I thank you for your time and would be pleased to answer any questions or provide any additional information you may need.