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Testimony in Support of:

LD 508 An Act To Prohibit Door-to-door Marketing of Retail Energy Supply

Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

March 9, 2021

Thank you Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. My name is Paul L. Armstrong I live in Palermo, Maine and I am a volunteer advocate for AARP Maine.

In the approximately 20 states that allow customers to pick their electricity supplier, problems in deceptive marketing practices have emerged.

Some power marketers have engaged in deceptive and misleading marketing practices including representing themselves as a utility employee or tricking customers into signing up for alternative electricity supplier at prices higher than the utility default service. Customers have ended up overpaying by doing so. AARP has been active in reforming these practices in legislation in Illinois, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, and other states.

LD 508 would bar door-to-door marketing by alternative suppliers.

I personally have been bothered and harassed by door to door solicitors. I have had some who were very aggressive and would not take 'no' as an answer- to the point that I demanded they leave my property.

I'm not even connected to the grid and I already receive many offers from different companies asking me to choose them as a provider! I can only figure if I'm getting the mail, they will come to my home without checking to see my status of being off-grid.

On behalf of our 230,000 members in Maine, we urge your support.

Paul L. Armstrong
401 Marden Hill
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AARP
Real Possibilities

PAUL ARMSTRONG
AARP

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