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Hobbins

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Barry J.

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

April 6, 2021

Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Berry and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

My name is Barry Hobbins and I am the Public Advocate with the Office of the Public Advocate and I am here today to testify in strong support of LD 1008 “An Act To Require Joint Use Entities To Establish Permanent Liaisons with All County Emergency Management Agencies.”

The Office of the Public Advocate would like to thank Representative Tepler for submitting this bill. We believe that open lines of communication between joint use entities and emergency management agencies in every Maine county is long overdue. Having support structures in place to expedite communications between these agencies and utilities and other service providers mentioned in the bill will go a long way in minimizing the negative impact of civil emergencies and the aftermath of natural disasters.

The establishment of these liaisons will also result in a more streamlined chain of communication between the counties and these entities which eliminate redundancies when customers of the entities need it most. To have this system in place before the next emergency will be a benefit to all utility ratepayers in Maine.

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on

LD 1008, and will be present at the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry J. Hobbins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barry J. Hobbins
Public Advocate