



**Testimony in Opposition to LD 1587**  
**An Act To Remove the Municipal Ordinance Exemption for the Development of**  
**Nonessential Transmission Lines**  
**May 4, 2021**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is James Cote and I am here today on behalf of Versant Power in opposition to LD 1587, primarily to highlight what we perceive as unintended consequences of this legislation.

The Governor's Energy Office has recently commissioned a thorough third-party market analysis of the State of Maine's renewable energy goals. It is clear from their recently published report that increased transmission capacity, and associated upgrades and investments, will be key components of our state's ability to meet our ambitious energy and climate goals in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Versant Power hopes the legislature will leave the door open to solutions that are broadly supported by local stakeholders and that will unlock the significant economic and climate benefits of grid scale renewable development in northern and eastern Maine.

We certainly understand and support the idea that transmission line development must be accompanied by significant public benefit. To that end, we request that extra care be taken to ensure that transmission investments and upgrades that are broadly supported can meet public benefit standards without being cost or regulatory prohibitive.

We would ask that you give due consideration to any potential unintended consequences, fairness, and Maine's ability to achieve broadly supported policy objectives in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.