

Testimony of  
Ben Gilman for  
The Maine State Chamber of Commerce  
In opposition to  
**L.D. 1634, An Act To Create the Maine Generation Authority**

May 5, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Ben Gilman and I represent the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, a statewide business organization made up of both large and small businesses, here to provide you with our testimony in opposition to **L.D. 1646 An Act To Create the Maine Generation Authority**.

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce supports policies and regulations that create certainty for our businesses. When we survey our members, energy and energy costs are always one of the top issues for businesses who operate in Maine – in our most recent Making Maine Work report, it was not different. LD 1634 represents a major energy policy shift for the state of Maine. The proposal contained within LD 1646 would go from our current system of privately held power generation that competes in an open marketplace to a publicly owned generation authority. That is a significant shift and one with many potential unknown outcomes.

Our current electric utility structure took years to develop and was debated thoroughly before the legislature. In fact, the discussions of our current system begin in 1995 and deregulation occurred in 2000. On policy decisions of such significance as proposed in LD 1634 we urge this committee and the legislature to proceed with caution as there are so many unknowns to such a significant policy decision.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with our testimony and we would urge the committee to oppose LD 1634 at this time.