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May 12, 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 support of LD 1556 “Resolve, To Create the Commission To Study and Recommend a Financing Model To Increase Capital Investment in Renewable Energy, Clean Energy Technology, Energy Efficiency Projects and Jobs in Maine.”

The OPA would like to thank Senator Carney and the bill’s cosponsors for submitting this resolve that will help steer Maine towards achieving its ambitious climate goals.

This study may be the solution to finding common ground on a bill the committee heard last week, LD 1634, and one the committee is hearing today, LD 1659. It recognizes, correctly, that there are many potential options to addressing the perceived need for more financing options to support clean energy and establishes a committee to study the issue. There are numerous opportunities that need further exploration and it would be useful to identify the gaps in the current system of financial support for renewable energy.

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

1556, and will be present at the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry J. Hobbins  
Public Advocate