

Art Bell  
Yarmouth

Good day, Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and the members of the Energy, Utilities & Technology Committee.

I am Maine Representative Art Bell, and I represent House District #47, Yarmouth, Chebeague and Long Island.

I am writing in support of LD 1708, creating a new, consumer owned utility in Maine, called the Pine Tree Power Company.

Maine's utilities have too long enjoyed monopoly status at the public expense, rather than in our interest. Maine has expensive power AND the worst power reliability in the country. And on top of that, CMP's initiative to develop the NECEC corridor to deliver energy to Massachusetts despite overwhelming statewide opposition is further evidence of their corporate arrogance & indifference to Maine's interests.

CMP (and Versant) have enjoyed their monopoly have failed the public. They have been pursuing their corporate goals at the public's expense. LD 1708 is a bipartisan proposal that shows Maine a better way.

I support LD 1708.