Isabella Burke Portland

This is a simple question of people versus profit, and it's a simple question of autonomy. All Mainers use energy, so all Mainers should have a say in how that energy is run. There is no reason that this crucial resource needs to be controlled by corporations who (by their very definition) are designed to value financial profit over human life, accessibility, and sustainability. These resources should be owned and controlled by the people who use them. Climate change presents an immediate and deadly threat to all life on Earth, and allowing Mainers to own and control our utilities is a crucial step in ensuring that Maine remains a beautiful place to live for future generations. A nonprofit public utility would allow us to transition to green energy, create lots of good jobs, and improve Maine's energy grid in a way that benefits all Mainers, not just the corporations that have chronically underinvested in our energy grid and worked to stop the development of renewable energy. These corporations do not have Maine's best interests at heart. This will be a difficult task, but it is a necessary one, and I have the utmost faith in the people of Maine to figure out the details. I am in full support of creating a nonprofit utility.