

To: Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

From: Becca Ferguson

Date: May 20, 2021

Re: Testimony in support of LD 1708, An Act To Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit Utility, To Deliver Lower Rates, Reliability and Local Control for Maine Energy Independence

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is Becca Ferguson and I am writing in support of LD 1708, An Act To Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit Utility, To Deliver Lower Rates, Reliability and Local Control for Maine Energy Independence.

I am a youth climate activist and environmental justice advocate with a long term goal to permanently settle in Maine. I recognize that creating the Pine Tree Power Company is an important step towards delivering affordable and clean energy to Mainers. The Pine Tree Power Company would be accountable to Mainers who have ownership and management rights over decisions made regarding the future of utilities in Maine.

Consumer owned utilities both in Maine and other states have proven to lower utility rates dramatically. The current utility companies that would be replaced by the Pine Tree Power Company are all owned by foreign governments who profit from the high rates that consumers pay. We shouldn't continue to allow foreign companies to profit at the expense of Mainers who struggle to pay ever increasing utility rates. Furthermore, these companies are impeding Maine's ability to fully transition to green energy, something that is essential to combating climate change.

Passing LD 1708, an Act to Create the Pine Tree Company, is an incredibly important opportunity for Maine to achieve energy independence, provide affordable and more efficient utilities for Mainers, and make important strides towards 100% clean and green energy. That is why I urge you to support LD 1708.

Respectfully submitted,

Becca Ferguson