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Members of the committee -

Thank you for reading my testimony today, and for considering the legislation before you. I urge you to pass LD 1708 to help ensure an energy future for Maine that is more secure and of better quality than it exists today.

As the recent actions of grid operators and investor-owned utilities have shown (ERCOT in Texas, PG&E in California), the business model of private sector energy supply is being demonstrated as increasingly unreliable, outdated, and irresponsible when concerned with the public good. As Maine continues to feel the effects of "global weirding" in the decades ahead, Mainers should feel they can depend on a well-maintained and power grid that puts efficiency and ethics first, rather than one that diverts funds and cuts corners in the name of investor dividends and odious executive salaries.

While the organizational model of public and municipals and utilities are not infallible, they've consistently demonstrated better reliability and lower ratepayer costs across the board in comparison to private entities, according to the EIA. And while the rural and forested nature of Maine may prove challenging to a state-wide public utility, the amount of savings projected (\$9 billion over thirty years) will surely be a boost to the Maine economy (as will the bond-funded purchase of CMP and Versant's assets behind-the-scenes).

LD 1708 and the potential of the Pine Tree Power model are too good to pass up, but this is just one Mainer's opinion. Please pass LD 1708 today, and do your part to lead Maine into a more sustainable, reliable, and equitable energy future.