

Marty Fox  
Wiscasset

Testimony for LD 1708 An Act to Create The Pine Tree Power Company  
A Non-Profit Utility, to Deliver Lower Rates, Reliability, and  
Local Control for Maine Energy Independence

Greetings Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and the Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology. My name is Marty Fox and I live in Wiscasset with CMP as my electricity supplier. I am writing in support LD1708.

My wife and I retired to Maine almost 9 years ago. We bought Conservation land with my step-daughter and her husband, so they could farm and preserve the land. After two years living in Maine, we had lost power more times than we did living 20 years on a dirt road in Sanbornton, NH. So we were not surprised, to learn CMP has poor customer satisfaction. I would like to reference 2020 JD Powers Utilities Customer satisfaction survey. You probably have heard previous testimony about CMP's poor customer satisfaction, but I would like to point out a comparison between Versant and Vermont's Green Mountain Power companies. <https://www.jdpower.com/business/press-releases/2020-electric-utility-residential-customer-satisfaction-study>

Please note, under the mid-sized utilities in the Northeast out of the 12 listed utilities Versant rates last place, and Vermont's Green Mountain Power rates 2nd. This shows Green Mountain Power cares about their customers, and Versant does not care. Your constituents deserve better, and you can improve their electric reliability by passing LD1708.

Another of my concerns is CMP's lack of interest in promoting "Maine Energy Independence". In past years, I have attended several of your committee's meetings supporting renewable energy and each time CMP and then Emera claimed they were neither for or against the bills, but their testimony clearly opposed the bills. We can not reach Maine's renewable goals without the major support of our utilities. I have not read about any effort on the part of Maine's utilities to move forward on renewable energy.

The electrical utilities owned by CMP and Versant are not a free market. They are monopolies owned by foreign governments and stockholders, who are paid profits and dividends from your constituents. A Maine Consumer Owned Utility will keep this money in Maine.

A feature of the bill, I like the most is, it will allow your constituents to decide whether or not to move forward with the Non-profit consumer owned utility with a referendum. I also noticed this bill, is being sponsored by both parties, which is a very positive point.

For all of the above reasons, I encourage you to ought to pass LD1708, to create a non-profit consumer owned utility, which will save your constituents money.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Marty Fox Wiscasset May 20, 2021