

Lasse Lau
Rockport

Senator Mark Lawrence, Representative Seth Berry, and honored members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, I thank you for your work in considering LD #1708.

My name is Lasse Lau. I am a new resident of the beautiful Rockport Village. We relocated here about six months ago from NWCT. I am an award-winning documentary filmmaker starting our new life here in Maine with my husband Larry and our dog Wilbur.

We bought an old house from 1860 on Church Street and are currently living in the next-door apartment, while the house is being renovated. We are using a local contractor that has been doing this job in the Rockport/Camden area for more than 30 years. He has been very frank with us from the beginning that we need to invest in a 10-15,000-dollar generator for the likelihood of power outages, something that seemed a little dramatic to us just six months ago.

This winter alone, we have already experienced two minor power outages. Something that we only experienced in NWCT twice in 16 years. We also started noticing all the generators tucked away behind the properties in our new neighborhood. We are using CMP.

Without wanting to sound too harsh, I have only experienced where the government depends on private citizens to having their own power sources being in developing countries. I have seen and experienced how physical and emotional taxing it is when you can't rely on your power and utility company to supply you with electricity that we all know we use for water pump, fridge, heat pump, cooktops, light sources, internet, etc. Electricity is a basic need for all humans in contemporary society.

I travel extensively for my work and now worry about potential future power outages and pipes freezing or ransom food left behind in my fridge when not at home. There is currently a backorder on generators for about nine months. The costs of freezing pipes alone are something that, from my experience, can reach thousands of dollars. Not to talk about insurance costs.

I support this bill because I want a reliable utility company that reinvests profit into maintaining and servicing the power grid instead of gambling with our safety. I don't want to worry about my safety nor the safety of my neighbors, who cannot afford the prohibited cost of a generator to stay warm during winter.

I strongly, therefore, support LD #1708.

I believe the costs for not fixing our infrastructure and having a reliable infrastructure are far higher than fixing them.

Not having a reliable power source hinders people's daily lives, limits our workforce free movement and productivity, and harms our businesses. If we want to stay competitive and attract a talented workforce to our state, we need to take this seriously and start investing in our infrastructure as a pathway to invest in our collective future.

Thank you for taking my testimony into your consideration. I am available if you have any questions.