

To: Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

From: Morgan Macdougall

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

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology: My name is Morgan Macdougall, a resident of Lincolnville, Maine, and I am here to testify in support of LD 1708, An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company.

CMP has been rated worst in the nation by its customers, by far, for three years in a row. Not only will the Pine Tree Power Company benefit Maine environmentally, but also financially, and will provide Mainers with more power stability. This company will save us \$9 billion over its first 30 years, and will not cost taxpayer dollars. Currently, our power companies are foreignly owned and not local, which is not financially profiting Maine. The Pine Tree Power Company will be a not-for-profit company, but will aim to reinvest revenue back into our grid. Local ownership benefits our state and its citizens, and brings transparency for all Mainers into political decision-making. Lower utility rates will even benefit our small businesses and tourist industry, because this will take the burden off Maine residents and businesses, and will allow businesses and communities to invest back into each other.

Where CMP and Versant have worked to curb advances to renewable energy, the Pine Tree Power Company will speed up the process of using clean and green energy in Maine. As an electric car owner and driver, I will advocate for replacements for fossil fuel, and will hope that Maine builds electric infrastructure to meet the fast growing demands for more environmentally sustainable electricity. Based on the lack of electric car charge stations in Knox and Waldo county, this will take serious investment and time, but I believe that it is worth it.

Thank you for your time,

Morgan B Macdougall