

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, distinguished members of the committee, thank you for allowing me to speak in support of LD#1708, an Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company. My name is Mack Moody and I'm calling from Pembroke, Maine.

I'd like to talk about the issue within the general framework of our economy. Adam Smith's famously unbenevolent baker strove to produce a quality product at affordable costs because of the scrutiny and competition he'd face in what Smith envisioned as a free and fair capital market. That is, the baker would only make delicious bread at a low price if he had to sell to people who'd know him and hold him accountable in a local economy full of other bakers trying exactly the same thing. But what if Smith had instead envisioned his baker being allowed to more or less anonymously sell his bread to foreign markets that had (for whatever reason) banned other bakers — say for instance, in Calgary or Spain. As the only game in town with no real meaningful customer relationships, the business model would've portended a pretty ominous outcome for gluten lovers in those restricted markets.

This is essentially the same paradigm we've been allowing CMP and Versant to operate in. Not only is the relationship between power company and its customers patently unfair and one sided, but also intrinsically antithetical to one of the fundamental pillars we've stood up to support a capital-driven economy. Allowing these foreign power

companies — who've got no interest but self-interest, exclusive domain is an invitation to kick down those pillars at our expense, we the customers.

Incidentally, I'm an actual professional baker, operating in rural Maine with no major competition to speak of, serving neighbors, friends, family, and of course myself, so I think I can speak with a bit of a unique authority on Smith's hypothetical. I'm most incentivized to bake the best bread I can and sell it at affordable prices not for the greatest possible profit margin, but because I'm directly accountable to people I know and value, including and especially my family and myself. This kind of company to customer dynamic is what LD 1708 will help create by literally putting the power back in Maine's own hands, giving Mainers the chance to decide how to make and distribute our own electricity how we ourselves decide.

Thanks for listening!