

Ella Tabasky
Portland

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology: My name is Ella Tabasky and I reside in Portland, Maine, and I am writing to testify in support of LD1708: An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company.

I support this bill for a variety of reasons. Creating a consumer-owned utility would result in a lower cost, more reliable, and more responsive utility that would replace the deeply unpopular Central Maine Power and Versant.

But perhaps most importantly, the creation of Pine Tree Power Company would make Maine a leader in the clean energy economy - supporting the rapid, just transition away from fossil fuels we need in order to adequately address the gravity of the climate crisis.

As of 2016, there were just six U.S. communities whose electricity was 100% renewable. What do they have in common? All six have consumer-owned utilities.

Pine Tree Power Company will lead the way to a rapid, just transition. It will boost cleaner and smarter power supplies, system resilience and reliability, beneficial electrification, and fast, affordable rural broadband.

Its governance will resemble that of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District. They plan to reach 100% renewable electricity by 2030, 20 years ahead of Maine's current plan.

Maine's state motto *Dirigo* means "I lead." By supporting the creation of a consumer-owned utility, the legislature will ensure Maine's leadership in making the state — and the world — a cleaner, safer, and healthier place to live for all Mainers.

Again, I urge you to support LD1708. Thank you for letting my voice be heard.

With respect,
Ella Tabasky
Portland, ME