

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

I am an elderly resident on Orrs Island, and I love living so near Casco Bay while also understanding the complications of being surrounded by large bodies of water. In the last 3 years, because there are more frequent power outages that last longer, I have begun to feel vulnerable in my home. This is especially true in the winter, because I require electricity for heat. I no longer feel I can rely on Central Maine Power (CMP) to provide a dependable supply of electricity, and I am already thinking forward to next winter's storms. The latest electrical reliability data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that from 2015 to 2019, Maine has had the most frequent outages in the nation. That makes me worry even more. And this dismal record is not because of our weather and coastal geography. Maine's consumer-owned utilities already serve almost a 100 towns down the coast to Kennebunk, and they have fewer outages than we do as CMP customers.

I support LD1708 to create the Pine Tree Power company because I believe Pine Tree Power, as a public utility, will make improving reliability one of its prime responsibilities to us the consumer-owners. As a not-for-profit, Pine Tree Power will put revenue and resources into improving infrastructure design, equipment and maintenance protocols. CMP's lack of responsibility for these critical components of reliable service are at the heart of my worry. Please vote for LD1708.

Jenny Zagariello  
Orrs Island, Maine

Jenny Zagariello  
Harpwell

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