



SIERRA CLUB

MAINE CHAPTER

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To: Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

From: Becky Bartovics, Sierra Club Maine

Date: March 7, 2022

Re: **Testimony in Support of LD 697: An Act to Reduce Risks to Maine's Critical Infrastructure**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology committee, I am testifying on behalf of Sierra Club Maine, representing over 22,000 supporters and members statewide. Founded in 1892, Sierra Club is one of our nation's oldest and largest environmental organizations. We work diligently to amplify the power of our 3.8 million members nation-wide as we work towards combating climate change and promoting a just and sustainable economy. To that end, we urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" for L.D. 697 as amended.

Clearly the lack of oversight of our current foreign owned utility corporations has impacted the citizens of Maine by increasing profits for overseas shareholders at the expense of costs to our ratepayers and to the service of all users. The people of Maine have spoken, we want a change.

Cost is of course of critical concern for all ratepayers, especially right now. L.D. 697 would allow Maine ratepayers to understand the implications of foreign ownership to our critical infrastructure. CMP's ownership by a Spanish conglomerate, the third largest provider of electricity world-wide, has no interest in the needs of Mainers except to extract money out of our economy. Emera, owned by the City of Calgary, has its own population as its first priority- funding the City of Calgary with profits.

As we move into an increasingly electrified world, we will need to consider the security of our systems, especially due to cyber attacks. Choosing undergrounding over overhead wires is likely an important consideration, for instance. The Public Utilities Commission needs this kind of legislation to be able to move into a more forward looking analysis as they deal with our future needs.

We urge you to vote Ought to Pass on L.D. 697 as amended by the sponsor.

Sincerely,
Becky Bartovics
Sierra Club Maine