

Daniel Emerson  
South Berwick  
LD 697

I support LD 697 “An Act To Enhance the Energy Security of Maine Residents”.

This bill as I understand it, requires the Public Utilities Commission to consider, before issuing an order of authorization, the risks to national security and the potential economic losses in the State associated with ownership, in whole or in part, of a transmission and distribution utility located in the State by a foreign government, foreign corporation or subsidiary of a foreign corporation.

Enacting LD 697 as amended will require regulators to deny utility ownership to distant, self-interested foreign governments and companies if allowing a buyout would hurt the safety, privacy or wallets of Maine utility customers. Such reform is overdue and will help protect the customers of all Maine utilities: gas, electric, telephone, and water.

I support this bill. I cannot understand why we as Mainers, or as United States citizens, would risk our critical infrastructure security and accessibility by allowing ownership by a foreign country. Makes no sense. As we clearly see based on current events, we are at the mercy of foreign oil producers. It's time to reel in our critical infrastructure needs, and put them back in our yard.

Again, I support LD 697 as amended, “An Act To Enhance the Energy Security of Maine Residents”, and it “ought to pass”.