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## **Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Jill Linzee, and I live in New Harbor.

I am here today to speak on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network, where I serve as Co-Chair of the Climate Change Issue Group. Our statewide organization is here in support of Representative Berry's amendment to LD 697, "An Act To Enhance the Energy Security of Maine Residents."

We are concerned that there is currently nothing in Maine law that would prevent a foreign government from purchasing CMP or Versant, or for that matter, a water, telephone or gas utility in our state. For more than a century, Maine utilities were owned and managed locally. A growing number of Maine citizens – many of whom are unhappy with our current foreign-owned utilities – would like to see us return to more local control. And local control of our utilities makes so much more sense economically for Maine. But at the very least, we should be protecting the security of our invaluable utilities from ownership by a self-interested and potentially hostile foreign government.

We ask you to support this important amendment to LD 697.

Thank you.