



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Jennifer Poirier

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

March 8, 2022

Testimony in Support of LD 697:

An Act To Enhance the Energy Security of Maine Residents

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and distinguished colleagues,

I am Representative Jennifer Poirier and I proudly represent the people of House District 107, which is all of Skowhegan and part of Madison.

LD 697 is very important to the integrity of critical infrastructure in Maine.

For decades, we have heard the pleas to “buy local” and to purchase items “Made in the USA.” The public utilities of Maine should consider these standards and logic.

Maine law does not prohibit a public utility from being owned or purchased by a foreign corporation or foreign government. Our current electric utility monopolies are owned by Quebec, Spain and even Qatar. There is nothing in Maine law that would prevent the sale of current utilities to countries like China or even Russia, so long as it is suggested that rates would not increase.

Representative Berry’s amendment to LD 697 affords greater protections for Maine consumers. Potential utility owners would be required to show how their acquisition would benefit Maine. The commission would look at criteria such as lower rates and improved local control. They would also evaluate potential risks in regard to reliability, privacy and safety.

It cannot be denied that current public utilities owned by foreign entities have been failing the people of Maine for years. As representative voices of the people of Maine, it is our duty to provide greater oversight and integrity of the process in which businesses operate in our state.



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Given the uneasy state of current foreign relations, I urge you all to vote **Ought to Pass on LD 697** to hold foreign governments and corporations to higher standards. The people of Maine are watching and waiting for us to do the right thing and to protect their interests.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennifer Poirier".

Jennifer Poirier
House District #107