

L.D. 697 An Act to Enhance the Energy Security of Maine Residents.

Testimony of Gordon L. Weil

March 8, 2022

I am Gordon L. Weil, a resident of Harpswell.

I submit the following comment on the bill and a proposed draft amendment to it.

This bill would amend 35-A MRSA §1101 and the replacement would amend 35-A MRSA §708.

These proposal attempt to provide for increased protection of customers in the case of electric utility merger, consolidation or reorganization. The Public Utilities Commission is asked to “consider” or “examine” certain factors. In executing this responsibility, the Commission would act to take account of “the interests of the utility's ratepayers and investors.”

The net result of this language is that the purposes of the bill could not or would not be accomplished.

As a result, I suggest that the proposed amendment should include the following addition, if it were to be effective.

Add to subsection 708. 2.A. the following:

(10) That the commission's examination under subsection 2, C (3) identifies net benefits for the utility's ratepayers.

Thank you.