

Marylyn wentworth
Arundel
LD 697

Marylyn Wentworth
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To the members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee

I am writing as a Maine citizen who has been plagued by CMP over pricing and bad service. have no way to change anything because my power source is owned by entities that live way beyond Maine in foreign countries who are interested in profits, not in me or my family. I am deeply in favor of the consumer owned proposal for Pine Tree Power Company, but LD 697, as amended, is at least of some help. I ask you to pass LD697 as amended for these reasons:

1. For most of our history – over a century – Maine utilities were owned and managed locally. This began to change in the early 2000s. Today, ownership and control are now continents and oceans away – and are often in the hands of foreign governments. This goes against everything I believe in as regards local control.

2. LD 697 as amended will require the PUC to deny any future purchase of a Maine utility by a foreign entity if it risks losses to reliability, customer privacy and safety, regulatory capacity, and/or our state economy. This makes practical sense to me as it keeps our control local and protects us from foreign profiteers.

3. Given the present capacity of foreign entities to buy up any of our utilities: water, power, telephone, gas, I find this particular frightening. If China or Russia or Saudi Arabia decided to buy some of our utilities, they would have such inroads into our well being. They would have so much power over us.

I urge legislators and the Governor to act now, pass LD 697 and safeguard Maine's most critical infrastructure. This really matters. It is critical to safeguard our utilities in every way possible until we can enact The Pine Tree Power Company.

Sincerely,
Marylyn Wentworth