



**State of Maine**  
**Office of the Public Advocate**  
112 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0112  
(207) 624-3687 (voice) 711 (TTY)  
[www.maine.gov/meopa](http://www.maine.gov/meopa)

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

William S. Harwood  
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Testimony Neither For nor Against  
LD 318, “An Act To Provide More Options to Maine Electric Service Customers and  
Support Maine's Climate Goals”**

March 16, 2022

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

My name is William Harwood and I am the Public Advocate, here today to testify neither for nor against LD 318, “An Act To Provide More Options to Maine Electric Service Customers and Support Maine's Climate Goals.”

Today’s testimony will focus on the proposed amendment from the sponsor changing the bill to a, “Resolve, To Direct the Office of Public Advocate To Study Reforming Maine’s System of Retail Electricity Supply to Provide More Options to Maine Customers and Support Maine’s Climate Goals.”

Due to this amendment coming at this point in the legislative session, we have had very little time to study this proposal. But the OPA does recognize the need to focus more government resources on finding the best option for supplying ratepayers with energy. Specifically, if the study goes forward, the study should address what can be done to minimize the volatility in Standard Offer Provider (SOP) prices.

We are testifying neither for nor against this proposal because we are not sure that the OPA undertaking the study, as proposed, will address the issues arising from the recent large increase in SOP prices; however, if modified, it may provide a forum to advance ideas for reforming standard offer pricing. Specifically, I am interested in exploring ways for the SO Provider to structure its energy procurement and pricing that provides greater price stability to Maine ratepayers over a period of several years.



State of Maine  
Office of the Public Advocate  
112 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0112  
(207) 624-3687 (voice) 711 (TTY)  
[www.maine.gov/meopa](http://www.maine.gov/meopa)

Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

William S. Harwood  
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

I am also concerned about managing the OPA workload over the next year. LD 1913 is already proposing that the OPA undertake significant responsibilities for a new study. It will be challenging to do both studies simultaneously.

If the Committee agrees that studying the SO program is worthwhile, OPA is willing to do its best within its available resources to lead the study.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 318 and will be available for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Harwood  
Public Advocate