

Celeste Carey
Newcastle
LD 952

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April 13, 2023

Testimony in Support of LD 952, An Act to Create a 21st-Century Electric Grid
Senate Chair Lawrence, House Chair Zeigler, and members of the Committee on
Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

My name is Celeste Carey. I live in Newcastle. I am in support of this legislation
presented by Representative Runte.

Today CMP makes its money from transmitting and distributing electricity
predominately generated from natural gas bought on the open market with prices set
for the year. Rates are presently high and we are told we could have a rate hike in
August of 2023 and each summer following for two more years if the PUC favorably
considers CMP's latest request in Docket 2022-00152. I just attended the PUC hearing
in Saco for public feedback on this matter. People talked of their bills being so high
they could not imagine how they could possibly pay for any more increases or
imagine where the money requested by CMP would need to be so urgently spent.

Another part of CMP's request was for two pilot projects involving battery storage
that is counter to Maine's divestment statute of 1997. Scientists consider battery
storage generation by proxy. CMP also wanted money to implement network
management improvements, which intervenors found would be a way to pass on to
ratepayers the cost of addressing prior CMP due diligence deficiencies identified by
OPA.

This is not an auspicious start to our new electrical energy future. We must really get
down to the business of distributing and managing our renewable energy resources.
One Parsonsfield testifier at the Saco hearing talked of years of unexplained delays by
CMP in getting their Brownfield site solar project ready for interconnection. The
project remains undone, we were told.

On April 6th, Larry Holloway, Professional Engineer, asserted in surrebuttal
testimony on behalf of Maine OPA, "With limited or no oversight, CMP will be under
internal pressure to select projects that generate the most return for its shareholders,
not projects that may be needed to improve use of the distribution system."

This is, I think, a strong argument for the need of an independent Distribution System
Operator.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Celeste Carey