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**Testimony Neither for nor Against
LD 1943, “An Act Regarding Future Energy Procurements for Renewable Energy
Development in Northern Maine”**

May 23, 2023

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

My name is William Harwood, here today as Public Advocate, to testify neither for nor against LD 1943, “An Act Regarding Future Energy Procurements for Renewable Energy Development in Northern Maine.”

The OPA supports President Jackson’s continued efforts to make the best use of the proposed Northern Maine transmission line so it can deliver as much cost effective renewable energy as possible. However, in order to make sure that the transmission developer is not receiving a windfall by benefitting from two generators using the line, the PUC should be sure that the ratepayers are not paying the developer of the transmission line more than what it costs the developer to build and operate it. More specifically, if the ratepayer subsidy ordered by the PUC to be paid for the first generator’s use of the transmission line fully compensates the developer of the transmission line, then it is possible that a second PUC order requiring a ratepayer subsidy for the second generator’s use of the transmission line could provide a windfall (or overcompensate) the developer of the transmission line. I recommend that language be added to the bill directing the PUC to make necessary adjustments to its approvals to limit the risk of the transmission developer receiving a windfall.

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 1943 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