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**Testimony Neither for nor Against
LD 698, “An Act Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Study the State
Natural Gas Supply Pursuant to the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Act”**

March 8, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler 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 698, “An Act Directing the Public Utilities Commission to Study the State Natural Gas Supply Pursuant to the Maine Energy Cost Reduction Act.”

The OPA is open to further study but has significant doubts about the feasibility and cost effectiveness of adding new gas pipeline capacity. In recent years, the price of natural gas has not been stable or predictable. Before we invest more of our limited resources in additional gas pipelines, we need to be sure that doing so is feasible and cost effective.

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 698 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