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Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Berry and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

The Office of the Public Advocate testifies neither for nor against LD 581 “An Act To Direct Electric Utilities To Provide Comparative Usage Data on Customer Billing Statements” which bill requires a transmission and distribution utility to provide on the utility's billing statement to a customer information concerning the previous 24 months of the customer's energy usage comparing same-month usage data between the first year of usage and the 2nd year of usage.

Central Maine Power (“CMP”) and Emera Maine (“Emera”) both currently provide comparison data on their bills. Currently CMP includes on their billing statements a 24-month usage summary graph along with a chart showing average daily usage per month for 24 months. The full previous year’s usage is shown along with the months completed within the current year so the information provided can range from 13 months to a full 24 months.

Emera Maine, Bangor Hydro District (“Emera BHD”) includes an energy comparison table that reflects the current month, previous month, previous kilowatt hour (“kWh”) service days, kWh per day and cost per day. Emera Maine, Maine Public Service Co. (“Emera MPS”) include a chart that details energy usage history by month for the previous 12 months including total kWh’s and kWh’s usage per day.

To the extent that this bill is asking for more data to be provided the utilities may not have the capability to provide such data and there may be a cost to ratepayers in doing so.

LD 581 as currently written is vague in nature. For example, no distinction is made between a Consumer Owned Utility (“COU”) and an Investor Owned Utility (“IOU”).

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 581, and will be present at the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry J. Hobbins
Public Advocate