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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 41 “An Act To Replace Net Energy Billing with a Market-based Mechanism”.

This proposed bill is one of many that will come before this committee during this session relating to the topic of net energy billing. This is an important topic and has already had a significant amount of stakeholder discussion and should be addressed in a comprehensive manner.

The Office of the Public Advocate respectfully suggests that all net energy billing related legislation be directed to stakeholders for review and further discussion and plans to be an active participant in such a group.

Speaking from personal experience the stakeholder/EUT subcommittee approach has been useful in crafting good legislation.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry J. Hobbins".

Barry J. Hobbins
Public Advocate