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

The Office of the Public Advocate (“OPA”) testifies neither for nor against LD 68 “An Act To Improve the Record Keeping of the Public Utilities Commission” which amends the law governing the record-keeping requirements of the Public Utilities Commission.

This bill, which appears to be constituent-driven, concerns matters internal to the Maine Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) and should be addressed by that Agency. In the experience of the OPA, the PUC has been able to access records from previous cases upon request. While the OPA is sympathetic to the frustration that arose from the event that led to this proposed legislation, the OPA suspects this to be an isolated incident and does not see this as a matter with far-reaching concerns for all ratepayers.

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 68, 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