



State of Maine
Office of the Public Advocate
112 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0112
(207) 624-3687 (voice) 711 (TTY) www.Maine.gov/meopa

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Barry J. Hobbins
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

February 14, 2019

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

The Office of the Public Advocate (“OPA”) testifies in support of LD 383 “Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: ConnectME Authority, a Major Substantive Rule of the ConnectME Authority” which resolve provides for legislative review of portion of Chapter 101: ConnectME Authority, a major substantive rule of the ConnectME Authority.

LD 383 will finally approve the program rules of the ConnectME Authority. This step was delayed previously due to a technicality in the failure by ConnectME Authority to follow the precise rules of legislative review of major substantive rules and is now ready to move forward with the approval. This emphasizes the need to have ConnectME Authority rulemaking authority changed to routine technical status.

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 383, 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