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PUBLIC ADVOCATE

March 14, 2019

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 of LD 334 “An Act To Change the Definition of “Renewable Capacity Resource” which bill aligns the definition of "renewable capacity resource" with that of "renewable resource" in the laws governing renewable energy by adding generators fueled by municipal solid waste in conjunction with recycling to the definition of "renewable capacity resource."

Under Section 3210 (3-A), competitive energy providers must be able to demonstrate that a given percentage of its supply resource is met by new renewable capacity (otherwise known as a Class 1 resource). This statute was enacted in 2007 in order to incentivize new renewable capacity. This statute’s aim was to increase the amount of new renewable capacity that serves Maine incrementally by year, topping out at 10% in the period from January 2017 through December 2022.

LD 334 would add to the category of generators under subsection B-3 of section 3210 generators that are fueled by municipal solid waste.

LD 334 would provide that any “new” municipal solid waste facilities could qualify as a Class 1 resource for purposes of meeting the requirements of section 3210 (3-A). “New” is defined as a brand new (as of 9/1/2005), new capacity added to an existing facility, an older facility that has been closed for at least two years but is restarting, or a refurbished facility.

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 334, 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, appearing to read "Barry J. Hobbins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "B".

Barry J. Hobbins
Public Advocate