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PUBLIC ADVOCATE

April 3, 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 1248 “Resolve, To Direct the ConnectME Authority To report on the Progress of the Detailed 2019-2021 Strategic Plan for Broadband Service in Maine” which directs the ConnectME Authority (“ConnectME”) to report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over energy, utilities and technology matters by January 19th in 2020, 2021 and 2022 outlining the progress of the authority in meeting the goals of its Detailed 2019-2021 Strategic Plan for Broadband Service in Maine.

LD 1248 creates an annual reporting requirement to ConnectME on the progress it has made meeting the goals in its most recent strategic plan. Currently by statute is required to create a Strategic Plan which is posted to their website. This bill would direct ConnectME to file the Plan with the Legislature and can be done so along with their required Annual Report

Over the past year, under the leadership of Heather Johnson, the ConnectME Authority has matured into an effective and efficient organization and the OPA wishes her well in her new position. The OPA also welcomes Peggy Schaffer as the new Executive Director and looked forward to working with her and her staff in the future.

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 1248, 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