



**State of Maine**  
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GOVERNOR

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PUBLIC ADVOCATE

January 23, 2020

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 1913 “An Act To Prohibit Certain Wheeling Charges for the Transmission of Electricity” which prohibits an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility located in an area administered by the Northern Maine Independent System Administrator from charging a person generating or selling electricity for the transmission, or wheeling, of that electricity to or from Canada over the utility's transmission system.

After careful review of this proposed legislation the OPA is concerned its lawfulness as it purports to regulate matters that are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, i.e. charges for the transmission of electricity.

It is worth noting that the transmission to Canada is currently subject to a charge, known as an “out charge” while there is no charge to suppliers for transmission service in Maine for electricity delivered from Canada since the cost of such service is paid for by customers, i.e., there is no “in-charge”.

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

1913, 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 initial "B".

Barry J. Hobbins, Public advocate