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

I am Barry Hobbins, Public Advocate. The Office of the Public Advocate (“OPA”) is here to testify in support of LD 314, “An Act To Continue the Green Power Electricity Offer.”

This bill makes permanent the provisions of law governing the Green Power electricity offer. The Committee will consider a number of bills this session to support renewable energy projects that impose mandatory costs on consumers. The Green Power offer has no direct cost to consumers, unless the consumers opt to participate. We have seen the program continue to grow, even throughout the pandemic when marketing efforts were virtually non-existent. There is consumer demand for a method to support renewable generation in Maine without the burden of researching and verifying the renewable source being placed on consumers. This product provides consumers with the ability to support Maine-based renewable energy at a minimal cost. Repealing the sunset provision ensures that this option is available for consumers going forward.

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 314, 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