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April 13, 2021

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

My name is Barry Hobbins and I am the Public Advocate with the Office of the Public Advocate and I am here today to testify in support of LD 1025 “An Act To Allow a Customer with a Net Energy Billing Arrangement To Annually Donate Any Unused Kilowatt-hour Credits.”

LD 1025 would allow an annual donation from a customer of any unused kilowatt-hour credits to another customer who is served by the same utility. The bill also requires the PUC to review the viability of such a program to ensure there isn’t an undue burden placed on the consumer or the utility.

If it is the pleasure of the committee, the Office of the Public Advocate would also like, if it would be feasible, to explore the possibility of the donation of these credits to non-profit organizations and/or customers enrolled in low-income assistance programs. If the customers were permitted to elect to deposit unused credits into a joint account that would then be allotted to customers facing economic hardship, the OPA would be even more supportive of this proposed program.

However creative the committee decides to be with the distribution of these unused credits, the Office of the Public Advocate is supportive of the concept and would be ready and willing to assist in any way we can.

The OPA would like to gain some clarity on one potential issue concerning the proposed legislation: currently, NEB credits expire after one year. They can be

carried for 12 months and then they are gone. Is this bill proposing to do away with the expiration date if the credits are donated? Or would the current rule still apply?

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 1025, 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