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**Testimony Neither For Nor Against
LD 1949, “An Act Regarding Energy Fairness”
May 15, 2025**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

My name is Heather Sanborn, here today as Public Advocate, to testify neither for nor against LD 1949, “An Act Regarding Energy Fairness.” We thank Senator Carney and the coalition that worked hard to bring the various elements of this bill together.

LD 1949 contains several meaningful provisions that offer important benefits to Maine’s low-income ratepayers. It also includes measures—such as potential rate disallowances and bill transparency provisions—that could serve the broader interests of all ratepayers.

However, the bill also introduces a number of complex policy changes, including new rules governing service disconnections. We are concerned that the sweeping breadth of these provisions could carry the risk of unintended consequences—such as dramatically increased uncollectible bills—that could ultimately affect all ratepayers.

Given the scope and complexity of this legislation, and the timing of its introduction so late in the session, we believe that additional time is needed to carefully craft the final bill language. A thorough review is essential to ensure that well-intentioned policies do not inadvertently result in increased costs, disadvantageous to ratepayers as a whole.

For these reasons, we respectfully recommend that this bill be carried over to the next session to allow for more comprehensive analysis.

I welcome your questions and would be pleased to provide additional information for the work session.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Sanborn
Public Advocate