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**Testimony Neither For Nor Against
LD 838 “An Act to Establish the Maine Clean Energy Authority”
January 20, 2026**

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

My name is Sylvia Most, Legislative Liaison for the Office of the Public Advocate, here today to testify neither for nor against LD 838 “An Act to Establish the Maine Clean Energy Authority.”

We thank Senator Lawrence for bringing forward this important proposal. The OPA is generally supportive of exploring outside-the-box ideas for how to leverage public financing to make future energy-related investments more affordable for ratepayers. We see this legislation as a way to begin that conversation.

Having just received the proposal a few days ago, we have not yet conducted a line-by-line analysis of it. We will want to further understand what types of activities the Maine Clean Energy Authority (MCEA) would be taking over from other agencies such as the PUC and the DOER and what activities would be a new and novel role for a public entity in Maine. We believe that it will be important to identify what problems the MCEA is being established to solve and then to carefully refine the legislation to create an Authority that can really tackle those problems.

We have also identified a few threshold questions that cause initial concern with the draft including: 1) identification of a source of funds for a start-up budget for the MCEA, and 2) the lack of conflict of interest provisions with regard to Board and the Executive Director.

These initial concerns may well be easily surmountable. Nonetheless, we anticipate that significant work may be required for this concept to become a reality. The OPA is ready, willing, and able to be part of that work.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Most
Office of the Public Advocate