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Testimony in Support
LD 307 “Resolve, to Establish the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council”
February 5, 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 in support of the Concept Draft Amendment to LD 307 “Resolve, to Establish the Maine Artificial Intelligence Data Center Coordination Council,” that was circulated on January 30, 2026.

Last session, the Legislature enacted LD 912, *An Act to Limit the Amount of Electricity That May Be Provided to Data Centers on a Certain Commercial or Industrial Site*. That emergency legislation was advanced in response to a specific proposed project and reflected concerns that a single, exceptionally large load could dominate available generation capacity and crowd out other commercial and industrial users. The law therefore limits the amount of electricity that may be allocated to data centers at particular sites as a targeted tool to manage exceptionally high electricity demand.

LD 307, as amended, takes a more forward-looking and comprehensive approach. Rather than responding to individual proposals on an ad hoc basis, it would convene a council to evaluate both the risks and opportunities associated with data center development and to develop coordinated policy recommendations. We strongly support this resolve and believe it is timely, as it will help the State avoid piecemeal legislation and instead pursue deliberate, coordinated planning that positions Maine to responsibly manage and benefit from this emerging form of development.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Most
Legislative Liaison
Public Advocate