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**Testimony Neither for nor Against
LD 1611, “An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit, Customer-
owned Utility”**

May 4, 2023

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

My name is William Harwood, testifying as Public Advocate neither for nor against LD 1611, “An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit, Customer-owned Utility.”

The Office of the Public Advocate has carefully considered this initiative. Assuming it will be on the ballot next November for voters to decide whether it should become law, the OPA has decided to take no position on this bill at this time. However, the OPA has responded to a number of questions about the proposal and our office will continue to do so throughout the next six months. We hope to serve as a trusted source of information to voters who seek a greater understanding of the proposal.

The OPA will be available for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill and answer any technical questions the Committee may have.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Harwood
Public Advocate