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**Testimony In Support of
LD 1727, “An Act to Protect Northern Maine Standard-offer Ratepayers”
May 2, 2023**

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

My name is William Harwood, here today as Public Advocate, to testify in support of LD 1727, “An Act to Protect Northern Maine Standard-offer Ratepayers.”

The OPA thanks Senator Stewart for bringing this forward. As this committee is aware, the OPA has been very concerned about increased Standard Offer (SO) prices in 2022 and 2023. Below are the residential and small commercial SO prices for the Maine Public District (MPD) since 2020:

2020: \$0.07/kwh

2021: \$0.06/kWh

2022: \$0.11/kWh

2023: \$0.15 kWh

Unfortunately, Maine supply prices reflect the disruption in natural gas supply as a result of international events.

Perhaps Northern Maine, where there is little indication of active CEP marketing, could be a test case for exploring a different approach to procuring standard offer supply. Would it make sense to set up a utility type permanent SO Provider for the NMISA territory and authorize it to procure the necessary supply and authorize the PUC to review and approve any changes in SO prices proposed by this new SO Provider? Such an entity could focus on supply opportunities both in Aroostook County and in New Brunswick and might be able to stabilize costs.



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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 1727 and will be available for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Harwood
Public Advocate