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**Testimony in Support of  
LD 1963, “An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in  
Northern Maine”  
January 11, 2024**

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 favor of LD 1963, “An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine.”

This project is very important in helping to meet our climate goals and hopefully represents one of the most cost effective opportunities for expanding renewable energy in Maine. Hopefully, LD 1963 will help move us one step closer to make this project a reality.

As a supporter of the project, our Office would be happy to play a formal role in supporting the PUC’s efforts to re-bid the project. We hope the sponsor and Committee will consider adding the OPA as one of the parties with which the PUC will coordinate in developing the RFP and evaluating the bids.

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 1963 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