3 July 2018

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1729, “An Act To Restore Confidence in Utility Billing Systems.”

This bill was created after many members of the public and media questioned Central Maine Power’s new billing system. The bill requires the PUC to apportion of the cost of CMP’s management audit to ratepayers and to shareholders in the event of a finding of imprudence. Prior to this bill’s introduction, the cost of the management audit was paid for by ratepayers.

While the language of the bill does not specifically single out CMP, the intent to single out CMP is clear, and was clear during committee hearings. I find a law that intends to single out a specific company unfair and unconstitutional. Introducing a bill to create a fine for an action after the fact, ex post facto, is unfair as well.

This bill also directs the PUC to take actions that are largely already in process. In that respect the bill is unnecessary, and the actions contemplated in the bill can already be achieved through the PUC, the Public Advocate’s Office, and the Governor’s Energy Office.

This bill is an example of the Legislature unfairly and callously appropriating a process they know is underway in the misguided attempt to look good in an election year. For these reasons, I return LD 1729 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor