



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

19 June 2013

The 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126<sup>th</sup> 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 1559, "An Act To Reduce Energy Costs, Increase Energy Efficiency, Promote Electric System Reliability and Protect the Environment."

As the Legislature is well aware, I have had significant concerns with this bill. While there are some positives found within it, there are also fee increases on Maine people and significant risk with new authority provided to the PUC. I believe we can do more to encourage lower cost electricity, including hydroelectric, and should focus our limited resources on directly lowering heating costs. Lastly, I know we can provide more relief to Maine businesses and consumers by reducing the add-ons to our electricity bills.

However, in order to work with the committee, the chairs and I came to an agreement on one additional provision. I gave my word that, if that one additional provision was included, I would let this bill go into law without my signature. It was a request that the Legislature provide the University of Maine the opportunity to compete for offshore wind development. There are many things we can disagree on, but we should all agree that our flagship university deserves the opportunity to compete on a level playing field. For the State, it is simply the right thing to do.

For these reasons, I return LD 1559 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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