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PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Testimony In Opposition to
LD 2027, “An Act to Clarify the Property Tax Exemption for Air Pollution Control
Facilities”**

February 6, 2024

Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation,

My name is William Harwood, here today as Public Advocate, to testify in opposition to LD 2027, “An Act to Clarify the Property Tax Exemption for Air Pollution Control Facilities.”

Normally, the OPA does not get involved in ongoing disputes between utilities and the government over the amount of taxes owed by the utility. However, in this case, we want to be sure that the Committee fully appreciates that if this bill is enacted, CMP and Versant ratepayers will be responsible for their share of the increased taxes not covered by the United States Department of Energy.

Because this dispute is currently the subject of ongoing litigation in Maine Superior Court, it may be prudent for the Legislature to let the litigation play out and then, after reviewing the final results of the case, if the Legislature feels the need to amend the law, it can do so at that time.

Overall, the OPA is concerned about the possible impact to ratepayers that could occur if the property tax exemption is removed for the Maine Yankee facility.



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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 2027 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