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**Testimony Neither For Nor Against
LD 923, “An Act to Improve Disclosure of Present and Future Costs to Maine
Electricity Consumers”
March 21, 2023**

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

My name is William Harwood and I am the Public Advocate, here today to testify neither for nor against LD 923, “An Act to Improve Disclosure of Present and Future Costs to Maine Electricity Consumers.”

The OPA generally supports public disclosure of how rates are determined. However, the phrase “deferred costs” is so ambiguous that it will be difficult to implement and may turn out to be of little value to most citizens. There are deferred costs for IRS/tax purposes; there are deferred costs for GAAP/accounting purposes; and there are deferred costs under PUC Accounting Orders for ratemaking purposes. Once we have a better idea of what the ultimate goal of the sponsor is, the OPA is hopeful that the Committee will be able to draft an amended version of the bill that addresses these concerns.

Regarding Sec. 1, Sub. 2 of the bill and the desire for public disclosure of electricity prices, the OPA has recently been doing some work on this. Our Office’s internal February Electric Rates Summary are attached as an example of what might be helpful to consumers.

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 923 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



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Residential Electricity Prices						
	Feb-23		Previous Month		Same Month Prior Year	
Standard Offer Rate						
CMP	17.63 ¢/kWh		17.63 ¢/kWh		11.82 ¢/kWh	
Versant - Bangor Hydro District	16.44 ¢/kWh		16.44 ¢/kWh		11.68 ¢/kWh	
Versant - Maine Public District	14.88 ¢/kWh		14.88 ¢/kWh		11.09 ¢/kWh	
CEP Supply Rates¹						
Current Lowest Offer Available to CMP Customers	13.70 ¢/kWh		16.50 ¢/kWh		9.80 ¢/kWh	
	SmartEnergy, 6m, \$0 Termination		CN Brown, 12m, \$150 Termination		CN Brown, 8m, \$100 Termination	
Current Lowest Offer Available to Versant Customers	12.30 ¢/kWh		16.50 ¢/kWh		9.80 ¢/kWh	
	Clearview, 6m, \$150 Termination		CN Brown, 12m, \$150 Termination		CN Brown, 8m, \$100 Termination	
Delivery Rates						
CMP - Base Rate (up to 50 kWh)	\$13.66		\$13.66		\$14.20	
CMP Total Delivery Rate	8.64 ¢/kWh		8.64 ¢/kWh		9.37 ¢/kWh	
T&D	8.83 ¢/kWh		8.83 ¢/kWh		9.27 ¢/kWh	
Stranded Cost	(0.19) ¢/kWh		(0.19) ¢/kWh		0.10 ¢/kWh	
Versant - Bangor Hydro District Total Delivery Rate (minimum monthly charge of 100 kWh)	11.47 ¢/kWh		11.47 ¢/kWh		12.15 ¢/kWh	
T&D	12.31 ¢/kWh		12.31 ¢/kWh		12.07 ¢/kWh	
Stranded Cost	(0.84) ¢/kWh		(0.84) ¢/kWh		0.08 ¢/kWh	
Versant - Maine Public District Total Delivery Rate (minimum monthly charge of 100 kWh)	9.52 ¢/kWh		9.52 ¢/kWh		8.76 ¢/kWh	
T&D	10.01 ¢/kWh		10.01 ¢/kWh		8.52 ¢/kWh	
Stranded Cost	(0.49) ¢/kWh		(0.49) ¢/kWh		0.24 ¢/kWh	
Monthly Cost for Residential Consumer (550 kWh/month usage)						
	Current Monthly Bill		Previous Month Bill	Variance to Current	Same Month Prior Year Bill	Variance to Current
<i>Standard Offer</i>						
CMP Customer	\$153.83		\$153.83	\$0.00	\$126.06	\$27.77
Versant - Bangor Hydro District Customer	\$153.51		\$153.51	\$0.00	\$131.07	\$22.44
Versant - Maine Public District Customer	\$134.20		\$134.20	\$0.00	\$109.18	\$25.03
	Current Monthly Bill	Variance to Standard Offer	Previous Month Bill	Variance to Standard Offer	Same Month Prior Year Bill	Variance to Standard Offer
<i>Current Lowest CEP Offer</i>						
CMP Customer	\$132.21	(\$21.62)	\$147.61	(\$6.21)	\$114.95	(\$11.11)
Versant - Bangor Hydro District Customer	\$130.74	(\$22.77)	\$153.84	\$0.33	\$120.73	(\$10.34)
Versant - Maine Public District Customer	\$120.01	(\$14.19)	\$143.11	\$8.91	\$102.08	(\$7.10)

¹ CEP information is based on what is reported to the OPA for pricing and does not encompass every available CEP rate.