



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

Neither for nor Against

LD 2087, An Act to Protect Property Owners by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program

January 23, 2024

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. My name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am here today to present testimony neither for nor against LD 2087, *An Act to Protect Property Owners by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program*, sponsored by Sen. Curry of Waldo Cty., on behalf of the 70 municipal leaders elected to serve on MMA's Legislative Policy Committee (LPC), who establish the positions on bills of municipal interest.

Local leaders have varying opinions toward LD 2087 in that they deeply respect and support the rights of property owners but additionally understand the importance of infrastructure development to the future of our state. Some officials have expressed frustration for the authority granted to power companies to use eminent domain and feel it is an abhorrent abuse of power, while others feel this proposal is merely a reaction to the recent issue experienced with LS Power.

With respect to the differences in opinion, the LPC has chosen to submit testimony neither for nor against LD 2087, and would like to kindly suggest a review of the eminent domain laws, their impacts on all interested parties, and to provide recommendations for any changes, if warranted, in 2025.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this issue. If you have any questions about the Association's position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at rlambert@memun.org or (800) 452-8786.

