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For Immediate Release

**Historic 19-16 Vote in Maine Senate
Supports Maine People Voting to Create Consumer-Owned Utility**

AUGUSTA, Maine -- Today, Maine's Senate voted 19-16 in support of putting the power of our electrical grid into the hands of Maine people.

Senator Rick Bennett (R-Oxford County), the lead Senate Sponsor of L.D. 1708, said, "For too long our utilities have been governed by foreign governments and foreign boards that do not understand or care about the needs of Maine people. This ownership model has been a disaster, leaving Maine with the [10th highest utility rates in the nation](#) and [dead last when it comes to reliability](#) with the most and longest outages in the country."

Stephanie Clifford, campaign manager for [Our Power](#), a coalition of Maine ratepayers, businesses, energy experts, conservationists, and dozens of grassroots organizations said, "We are pleased that the Maine Senate followed the Maine House and voted in support of L.D. 1708. The bill is now on its way back to the House for enactment. We hope Governor Mills will do the right thing and send the bill along to the voters so that the people of Maine have the opportunity to vote this fall to create a consumer-owned utility for the state of Maine."

A recent poll by Survey USA showed [75% of Maine people support buying out CMP/Versant and creating a consumer-owned utility](#).

In recent years, the largest single obstacle to decarbonizing Maine's economy has been the Investor-owned utilities, while consumer owned utilities serve all of the nation's first six communities to reach 100% clean electricity.

(See Rep. Berry's direct response to questions raised by Governor Mills' Chief of Staff attached.)