



Contact: Stephanie Clifford, Campaign Manager, (207) 415-8319,  
[Stephanie@ourpowermaine.org](mailto:Stephanie@ourpowermaine.org)

**For Immediate Release**

**As Historic Bill to Create Consumer-Owned Utility  
Heads to Governor's Desk, Voters Will Have Final Say Either in 2021 Or 2022**

AUGUSTA, Maine -- Today, after affirmative bipartisan votes in the Maine Senate (19-16) and the Maine House (76-64) in support of [L.D. 1708 "An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company,"](#) the bill heads to Governor Janet Mill's desk.

If Governor Mills signs the bill or allows 10 days to pass without either her signature or a veto, the bill will become law. This would put the question of consumer ownership of Maine's grid on the ballot in November 2021.

Stephanie Clifford, campaign manager for Our Power, a coalition of Maine ratepayers, businesses, energy experts, conservationists, and dozens of grassroots organizations said, "Thank you to all the legislators who voted in favor of L.D. 1708. We hope Governor Mills will do the right thing and send the bill to Maine voters so that we have the opportunity to vote this November to put our energy future back in our hands."

Clifford went on to say, "If Governor Mills chooses to veto the bill against the will of Maine voters and legislators, we will continue our campaign through a citizens' initiative. The Governor's choice is not whether or not Maine voters will have a say on this, it is when they will have a say."

Petition gathering on such a citizen-initiated referendum would begin this summer and would likely put the question on the ballot in November 2022, the same year that Mills is up for re-election.

A recent poll by Survey USA showed 75% of Maine people support buying out CMP/Versant and creating a consumer-owned utility. This strong support for the idea, which is up from 58% just one year ago, bridges party lines and geography, indicating strong prospects for a successful referendum bid.

[OurPowerMaine.org](http://OurPowerMaine.org)

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