



www.ourpowermaine.org

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News Conference

WHEN: Thursday July 8, 11:00 a.m.

WHERE: News conference at [World's Largest Telephone](#) in Bryant Pond, ME

WHO: Senator Rick Bennett, Rep. Seth Berry

Also available through livestream via Facebook live at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ourpowermaine>

Calling on Governor Mills: Give Mainers a Choice

Bryant Pond, Maine -- Over three years, the Maine Legislature's Utilities Committee, House, and Senate has examined and debated legislation to create a consumer-owned utility to serve Mainers. After careful deliberation and independent feasibility analysis, they concluded that Mainers can be trusted to make important decisions if they are given the facts and given the choice. Now the House and Senate have agreed by bipartisan majority votes, and the bill sits on the Governor's desk.

Thursday at 11:00, Senator Rick Bennett (R-Oxford) and Rep. Seth Berry (D-Bowdoinham) will come together at the world's largest telephone to call on Governor Mills to let Maine people vote this fall on [L.D. 1708 "An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company."](#) Other observations unrelated to LD 1708 may also be shared by the bipartisan duo of former party leaders.*

Within three business days, Governor Mills will decide whether to sign the bill and let Mainers choose whether our monopoly electric utilities should be owned by foreign, profit-motivated corporations or by non-profit, Maine-based customer-focused and owned utilities.

This is a defining issue for our times. Maine's electric grid will power almost every aspect of our lives in the future. Maine businesses - from lobster processors to production lines to office buildings - can't afford to keep having the grid go down. Maine's poorly-performing, investor-driven utilities are akin to crank phones in a smartphone world, but with none of the local control and caring once found in the Bryant Pond Telephone Company.

Today Our Power also unveils a "[countdown clock](#)" to a future announcement, which will depend on the Governor's decision.

*Rep. Seth Berry is the sponsor of LD 1708, and a Democratic former House Majority Leader. Sen. Rick Bennett is the lead cosponsor of the bill, and a Republican former State Senate President. Together they also chair the Legislature's Broadband Caucus, a bipartisan coalition of legislators focused on improving Maine's connectivity.

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