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Our Power Applauds Move by Mills to Oppose CMP Rate Hike, But Says Real Change Needed

PORTLAND

Our Power Executive Director Andrew Blunt and Senior Advisor Seth Berry, longtime House Chair of the Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, issued the following statement in response to the [announcement](#) that the Energy Office of Governor Janet Mills will intervene at the Public Utilities Commission to oppose the latest request for a three-year rate increase by Central Maine Power.

"Our Power applauds this effort by Governor Mills," said Blunt. "But let's be honest: the profits made by private utilities on investments like this are protected by [US Supreme Court case law](#). State law and regulation is powerless here. Either we invest in improving our grid and rates go up, or we don't. If we stick with this failing business model, we can't have it both ways. A customer-owned utility could make these investments at half the cost to the average ratepayer."

"Today, many of Maine's consumer-owned utility customers pay [half as much for their electricity](#) as the captive Maine customers of Versant and CMP," added Berry. "These Mainers in 97 towns have real energy sovereignty, fewer outages, and can more easily afford to switch to EVs and heat pumps."

Versant last received a delivery rate hike of [17.5%](#) in November of 2021, and has recently requested an additional 28%. CMP last received a hike of [11.5%](#) in August 2021. Supply costs have also increased dramatically, especially for Versant and CMP.

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