



How Do Utility Workers Benefit from the Pine Tree Power Company?

The Our Power all-volunteer coalition includes many union members, and strongly supports unions and workers. Its focus is on an affordable and reliable grid to deliver clean energy for all. That is why the referendum to replace CMP and Versant with an independent, not-for-profit Pine Tree Power Company guarantees *more and better* jobs for utility workers than the status quo.

[As written](#), the Our Power referendum:

1. Protects and guarantees all worker jobs. §4003 (4)
2. Provides two years of bonus pay to keep workers and their local knowledge. §4003 (4)
3. Protects the right to strike, first and most importantly by using a private operations company subject to NLRA (similar to [LIPA](#)) §4003 (3), §4003 (4)
4. Provides a second layer of protection in Maine law for right to strike, agency fees, and union access to the workplace, overriding all other Maine laws. §4003 (4)
5. Boosts pay and terms of bargaining agreements if units are merged. §4003 (4)
6. Guarantees all worker and retiree pensions and benefits. §4003 (4)
7. Provides for labor representation on the utility's board. §4002 (2)
8. Gives workers the opportunity to vote in board elections for 7 of 13 members. (eligible for Clean Elections) and support worker-friendly candidates. §4002 (2)
9. Requires open board meetings; records and communications subject to FOAA. §4009
10. Adds protections against utility hiring of outside, nonunion contractors. §1511-A
11. Requires utility to focus and report on Maine job creation. §4002 (2), §4010, §4011
12. Disqualifies both CMP and Versant from bidding on operations contracts. §4003 (3)
13. Ends monopoly profit-taking, keeping billions here in Maine to reduce rates and to better maintain and modernize our grid.

Our two for-profit monopoly utilities have been [spending big](#) on fear tactics and misinformation to trick both workers and customers, but Maine people know the score. They know CMP and Versant will say anything, do anything, and hire anyone to keep workers and customers weak. [International unions](#) see it too and are fighting back against CMP's owner, Iberdrola.

CMP, Versant and those they hire say their workers may lose private-sector union rights. The union's own retired lawyer, advising pro bono, says this is false. It is a scare tactic. PSEG-Long Island has had the same public owner/private operator arrangement proposed by Our Power since 1998. The sky has not fallen there for [IBEW Local 1049](#). Its [contracts are excellent](#). The same will be true here in Maine.

At a time when Mainers are being crushed by high energy bills, the referendum will also [benefit every Mainer](#), as well as future generations, with locally-controlled, reliable and affordable clean energy.

To see the [many specific provisions](#) of the Pine Tree Power Company referendum benefiting utility workers, click [here](#).