



Press Statement:

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Our Power Responds to Secretary of State's Signature Announcement

November 30, 2022, PORTLAND, ME

Today, Maine's Secretary of State Shenna Bellows announced that the certification of petitions for "[An Act To Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit, Customer-owned Utility](#)" is complete and her office confirmed that 69,735 valid signatures were submitted for the initiative, enough to move forward to the November 2023 ballot.

Our Power's Executive Director Andrew Blunt issued the following statement in response:

"Thanks to the heroic effort of hundreds of volunteers across the state, Maine voters will now have the chance to choose between our two failing, foreign-owned power companies, CMP and Versant, and one owned by Maine people."

"With rates through the roof and a hard winter ahead, Mainers are more ready than ever for a local power company that lowers our bills instead of making wealthy corporations richer," he continued.

John Brautigam, former State Representative and Our Power Board President, weighed in as well: "This shows that Mainers want to keep more of their hard-earned money in their own pockets. Mainers are tired of seeing their rates go just up to fatten the wallets of stockholders who couldn't find Maine on a map. After a year of connecting with Maine people and collecting signatures from almost every town in the state, we are proud to offer a brighter future for our state's electric grid and cheaper power for Maine ratepayers."

The Maine Legislature will now consider this initiative, which would replace Central Maine Power and Versant Power with a nonprofit, Maine-owned utility. Legislators will have the opportunity to enact the bill as written or to send it forward to a statewide vote on the November 2023 ballot.

[Our Power](#) is a coalition of Maine ratepayers, business leaders, energy experts, conservationists, and others committed to putting the Pine Tree State's energy future in the hands of Mainers.

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