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131st Legislature (2022-2024)

History and Final Disposition

LD 1611 / IB0002

An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit, Customer-owned Utility. Referred to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy Utilities and Technology. Public Hearing 05/04/23. Ought Not to Pass Pursuant to Joint Rule 310 06/07/23. Final Disposition: Failed at Referendum, 11/07/23 (In favor: 122,961; Opposed: 283,401).

Original Bill

[LD 1611 \(131st Legis. 2023\)](#)

Committee Materials

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

- (Master file available on request—please include citation:cf131-LD-1611.pdf
[Public Hearing \(Audio File\) \(EUT\) \(05/04/2023\)](#)
- (Click audio link on committee page. Audio files may cover several bills.)

Floor Proceedings and Debate

[HOUSE, April 11, 2023 \(H-297-310\)](#)

p. H-298

[HOUSE, April 20, 2023 \(H-342-355\)](#)

p. H-354

[SENATE, April 25, 2023 \(S-510-537\)](#)

p. S-518

[SENATE, May 4, 2023 \(S-613-640\)](#)

p. S-619

[HOUSE, June 7, 2023 \(H-654-664\)](#)

p. H-663

[SENATE, June 07, 2023 \(S-927-995\)](#)

p. S-928

News Articles

Pine Tree Power plan isn't worth risk (Tina Riley) (Bangor Daily News, 4/26/2023, p. A9) • (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/BDN 230426C.pdf)

Mainers will decide fate of utility owned by consumers (Kay Neufeld) (Portland Press Herald, 5/5/2023, p. A1, A5) • (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 230505D.pdf)

Watchdog lays out unknowns of proposed utility takeover (Billy Kobin) (Bangor Daily News, 9/6/2023, p. A1, A4) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/BDN 230906A.pdf)

Proposed utility takeover would create a new set of state elections (Billy Kobin) (Bangor Daily News, 9/12/2023, p. A1, A2) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/BDN 230912A.pdf)

Pine Tree Power critics have exaggerated utilities likely cost" (Peter L. Murray) (Portland Press Herald, 9/14/2023, p. A6) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 230914C.pdf)

Beware the sweeping promises being made about Pine Tree Power (Jack Cashman) (Portland Press Herald, 9/19/2023, p. A6) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 230919E.pdf)

Politicians should not run our power grid (Brian Langley) (Ellsworth American, 9/22/2023, p. B5) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/Ellsworth American 230921D.pdf)

Why Democrats are at the center of Maine's utility takeover campaign (Michael Shepherd) (Bangor Daily News, 9/25/2023, p. A1, A3) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/BDN 230923B.pdf)

Two Maine labor groups urge 'no' on public utility (Stephen Singer) (Portland Press Herald, 9/25/2023, p. A1, A6) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 230923A.pdf)

Pine Tree Power is key to easing climate change, lowering costs (Susan Inches and Wayne Jortner) (Portland Press Herald, 9/27/2023, p. A4) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 230927D.pdf)

Nurses union backs ballot measure calling for public utility (Staff Reports) (Portland Press Herald, 9/28/2023, p. B1, B3) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 230928B.pdf)

A disastrous proposal (Alan Baker and Tim Plouff) (Ellsworth American, 9/29/2023, p. B9) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/Ellsworth American 230928B.pdf)

Energy landscape could be reshaped by voters (Stephen Singer) (Portland Press Herald, 10/4/2023, p. A1, A5) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 231003B.pdf)

With supercharged question 3, the devil is in the details (Jill Goldthwait) (Ellsworth American, 10/6/2023, p. B4) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/Ellsworth American 231005C.pdf)

If Maine voters pass new utility, who would manage it? (Stephen Singer) (Portland Press Herald, 10/10/2023, p. A1, A5, A6) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 231010A.pdf)

Pine Tree Power good for both consumers and climate goals (Sophie Warren) (Portland Press Herald, 10/23/2023, p. A4) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 231023E.pdf)

Loss of property tax looms over mayors' question 3 concerns (Stephen Singer) (Portland Press Herald, 10/27/2023, p. B1, B3) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 231026C.pdf)

Better not take a chance on Pine Tree Power (Philip Shapiro) (Portland Press Herald, 11/2/2023, p. A5) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 231102F.pdf)

For-profit utilities not telling us facts behind Question 3 (Steve Kahl) (Kennebec Journal, 11/3/2023, p. A3) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/KJ 231103A.pdf)

Pine Tree Power will certainly save Mainers money (Jim Lazar) (Portland Press Herald, 11/6/2023, p. A4) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/PPH 231104C.pdf)

Maine voters reject effort to create public utility (Billy Kobin) (Bangor Daily News, 11/9/2023, p. A1, A2) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/BDN 231109B.pdf)

Rejection of Pine Tree Power opens the door to reform (Editorial) (Maine Sunday Telegram, 11/13/2023, p. D2) ● (Available on request—please include the following citation: 131/LD16xx/nc131-LD-1611/MST 231112F.pdf)

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