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To: 130th Maine Legislature

Subject: CMP Operations

I am writing in support of proposed legislation LD 1847 to termination or disconnection of a public safety facility's utility service. I actually experienced this situation while serving as Interim Town Manager in Buckfield.

Last June a technician from CMP showed up at the Buckfield Fire/Rescue facility and informed the Chief he was there to disconnect the power for non-payment of the account. The Chief explained he had nothing to do with paying the bills but he'd look into it. The tech agreed to give him until 4:00 PM. The Chief came to the Town office immediately.

We contacted CMP and they claimed they attempted to contact the town to no avail. We told them a check was forwarded 10 days ago. They stated they never got it; we payed electronically to avoid having the power disconnected.

The next day we received mail from CMP showing a photocopy of the check in question. The attached letter stated they did not know which account to apply the payment to (even though there was an invoice number).

We had discussions with CMP Public Affairs as well as the PUC. Regardless of what CMP claimed we fortunately avoided a major incident which would have endangered the health, welfare and safety of the residents of Buckfield.

Let us do the right thing and pass some proactive legislation before we have unnecessary loss of life do to an administrative error.

Respectfully,

Bradley Plante

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