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Testimony in support of LD 31, "An Act Regarding Rules Adopted by the ConnectME Authority."

Presented by Representative William Pluecker House District 95. Presented to the Energy, Utilities & Technology Committee, Thursday, January 31, 2019.

Good afternoon Senate Lawrence, Representative Berry, and other distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities & Technology Committee. I am Representative William Pluecker from Warren and I represent House District 95. I am speaking today in support of LD 31, "An Act Regarding Rules Adopted by the ConnectME Authority."

We all know that the lack of broadband access is slowing the economic development of our rural areas. We also understand that this is an issue that needs immediate action if we intend to slow the loss of our young, educated Mainers to out of state jobs that offer more pay, but at a loss of the way of life that we all treasure.

We have seen bipartisan support for the expansion of broadband, and it is time that we empower ConnectME Authority to make the rules they need without reference to the legislative bodies. The current designation of "major substantive" rules, just creates additional red tape and bureaucracy in a process that we all want to see move forward as quickly as possible.

Let's empower ConnectME Authority to make the rule changes they need, and without the bureaucracy, they will be able to make the changes they need, at the point they need them. Thank you very much for your consideration.