

Maine's energy crisis is a self-inflicted wound caused by decades of Democrat political malpractice.

Maine's energy crisis is real, felt daily, and is devastating for Maine families and businesses. Bluntly, energy in the state of Maine is unaffordable, costs unsustainable. The crisis is a self-inflicted wound caused by decades of political malpractice by Democrat insiders. The good news? Maine's energy crisis can be systematically reversed, costs driven down with responsible, accountable leadership.

The current system – a failure from the start – has produced **unsustainably high costs** in all 16 counties, including every demographic, rural and urban. These costs will continue to climb until reversed by fiscally focused, common sense GOP leadership.

It is time to end the insider games, political cronyism, and ideological approach that produced this failure, driving energy costs sky high for homeowners and businesses.

It is time to move away from political ideology and put **subject matter experts** in charge of our energy future. The political process has failed Maine. A radical change in approach is now demanded.

The Problem: Political Failure

- **Skyrocketing Costs:** Maine's energy costs are among the highest in the nation, with a **55 percent increase** from 2014 to 2024, a rate twice the national average. In 2024 alone, prices jumped by a staggering **36.3 percent**. Mainers cannot afford this folly.
- **Failed "Deregulation":** The current system, a product of failed political "deregulation," has stifled competition and prioritized political mandates and giveaways over affordable, reliable power. Mainers want lower costs, not politics.
- **Bureaucracy & Subsidies:** Schemes like "Net Energy Billing" (LD1711) force the majority of Mainers to subsidize wealthier solar users, an inherently unfair and unaffordable policy pushed by politicians, not experts. This is just one example of the political process overriding sound economic and technical judgement.
- **Ignoring Reliable Power:** Politicians are actively working against reliable, high-capacity energy sources like hydropower and natural gas, even at the cost of billions in economic activity and critical jobs. This ideological error is crippling Maine families and businesses, running them into the ground and out of state.

The Solution: Expert-Driven Reform

We need a comprehensive, non-political, pro-customer, pro-growth strategy. This is a call to action to **cut energy costs by 30 to 40 percent** by replacing political mandates with expert-led, evidence-based decision-making and a return to common sense.

Here is the path forward:

- **Empower Experts, Not Politicians:**
 - **Decouple politicians from rate-setting.** The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) should be staffed with **trained engineers, economists, and utility experts**, not political appointees. No more manipulating the market.
 - **Reform the PUC and Office of Public Advocate (OPA)**, refocusing them on ratepayer interests and expert oversight, ending their transformation into political "climate czar" roles. Mainers need cost savings, not mandates.
 - **Assemble a top-shelf team of energy experts** to review and eliminate the *hundreds* of anticompetitive and politically motivated regulations.
 - **Cut state-wide energy bureaucracy**, ending biased insider contracting, and restaffing with educated, accountable, pro-customer utility experts.
- **Embrace All Reliable Energy Sources:**
 - **Repeal the failed "deregulation" framework**, allowing genuine competition among all efficient producers, including natural gas, hydro, nuclear, and cogeneration. Go back to a cost-based, competitive system.
 - **Negotiate completion of crucial natural gas pipelines** (*Constitution* and *Iroquois*) to dramatically reduce costs for Mainers.
 - **Assure uninterrupted operation of hydropower**, including the four vital Kennebec River dams, using all legal action to protect this critical resource.
 - **Promote free market solutions** for all energy forms, from efficient renewables to fossil fuels and safe, efficient **small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs)**. Mainers needs to end ideology, restore affordability.

The time for political experimentation with Maine's energy grid is **over**. We need a return to common sense, sound science, and expert management to secure our state's economic survival. Survival depends – at core – on fiscal responsibility and energy affordability.