



**NEW LOCATION:**

**Waterville Elks Club #905 | 76 Industrial Street | Waterville**

**Festival Dates & Hours:**

- November 17th Friday from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- November 18th Saturday from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- November 19th Sunday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- November 24th Friday from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- November 25th Saturday from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- November 26th Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

***Drawing for Tree Winners begins on Sunday, November 26th at 5 p.m.***

## Join the fun and sponsor a tree

It's time again for this year's Festival of Trees! A fabulous fun holiday event, with all funds raised to support our community members experiencing food insecurity through services at the Alford Youth & Community Center, and those in need of workforce development through services provided by the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce!

**Sponsor a Tree:** If your business would like to sponsor a tree you can go to [www.clubaycc.org/festival-of-trees](http://www.clubaycc.org/festival-of-trees) and register your tree or email Felicia Lambert at [flambert@clubaycc.org](mailto:flambert@clubaycc.org).

Trees must meet the following requirements: Artificial Tree Five feet tall at minimum Use LED lights only and include skirting that covers the tree stand. Set up dates are Tuesday and Wednesday this year, November 14, 15 from noon to 7 p.m. Sponsor appreciation event on Thursday, November 16 at 5 p.m.

**Volunteer:** The Festival has over 400 volunteer slots to fill, many three hours at a time. We would be thrilled if your employees or associates would like to volunteer individually or as a group!

For more information go to [www.clubaycc.org/festival-of-trees](http://www.clubaycc.org/festival-of-trees) and sign up to volunteer, or email Maddie Rock [mrock@clubaycc.org](mailto:mrock@clubaycc.org). Thank you so much for supporting this year's event and worthy causes!

## MMCC/CMGC form Nonprofit Central Maine Community Betterment Collaborative

Mid-Maine Chamber and the Central Maine Growth Council have partnered to form a nonprofit extension, thereby allowing them to grant-write in order to further their own missions. Named the Central Maine Community Betterment Collaborative (CMCBC), it is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Its mission is to support, address, educate, coordinate, and improve the mid-Maine region's overall public health and socioeconomic landscape. CMCBC supports this work in mid-Maine by focusing on improving the well-being of people, the built environment, and critical ecosystems (including workforce development, attraction and retention initiatives, and initiatives to increase employment opportunities) while fostering relationships that strive for community resilience.



Now, those wishing to make a donation to the Chamber's Joseph B. Ezhaya Scholarship can make their payment to CMCBC and receive a tax deductible receipt. Most importantly, this new nonprofit can also be used by area businesses to provide scholarships for a nominal fee. Additionally, those nonprofits that may have let their status lapse, or who are not a c3, maybe be able to work with CMCBC to run their grant application under the Collaborative, provided that it fits the above mission criteria.

This year's Festival of Trees, held at the Waterville Elks Banquet Center on Nov. 17-19, and 24-26, 2023, will be hosted by the Betterment Collaborative, but will still be a collaboration with the Alford Youth & Community Center with both organizations splitting the proceeds. FMI on the Collaborative go to [www.centralmaine.org/central-maine-community-betterment-collaborative-cmcbc](http://www.centralmaine.org/central-maine-community-betterment-collaborative-cmcbc).

**50 ELM STREET, WATERVILLE, ME 04901**  
**TEL: (207) 873-3315 • FAX: (207) 877-0087**  
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[www.midmainechamber.com](http://www.midmainechamber.com)  
 Michelle Joler-Labbe, chair of the board  
 Kimberly N. Lindlof, president & CEO

## WHAT'S INSIDE:

People News | Member News | Events Calendar | New Members  
 Events: Business After Hours | Business Breakfast

**Member Spotlight: Waterville Area Soup Kitchen – The Lighthouse**

# Upcoming Chamber October Events

## Business Breakfast



## Question 3, Pine Tree Power: Promises vs. Realities.

Thursday, October 5, 7:15-9 a.m.

Best Western Plus, 375 Main St., Waterville

Jim Cohen of Maine Affordable Energy will show us why Mid-Maine Chamber and others are opposed to the idea of a government takeover of two private companies.

*Jim Cohen, Verrill Dana Law Office*

*Jim practices at the intersection of law and politics. Based on decades of experience as a regulatory lawyer, mediator, and elected official – including as Mayor of Portland, Jim helps clients in heavily regulated industries achieve their legal and policy goals before state and local regulatory agencies and legislative bodies.*

Registration- \$23 for members; \$29 non-members and at the door. Register today by emailing [cindy@midmainechamber.com](mailto:cindy@midmainechamber.com) or call 873-3315.



Wednesday, October 18, 5:30-7 p.m.

Hosted by

Bangor Savings Bank &

Children's Discovery Museum

7 Eustis Parkway, Waterville

Join MMCC and friends for a Business After Hours. This event offers a great opportunity to mix and mingle with other business professionals. We will also be offering the mic to members who want to speak and let us know what your business has been doing. Bring plenty of business cards!



**For current updates and information on the Waterville WinslowTiconic Bridge project visit**  
[www.maine.gov/mdot/projects/waterville/ticonicbridge](http://www.maine.gov/mdot/projects/waterville/ticonicbridge)

OCTOBER MID-MAINE CHAMBER CALENDAR		
Mon., Oct. 2	8:30 a.m.	KV Connect Steering Committee
Thurs., Oct. 5	7:15 a.m.	Business Breakfast Series
Fri., Oct. 6	8:00 a.m.	Board of Directors'
Mon., Oct. 9	Indigenous Day	Chamber office closed
Wed., Oct. 18	5:30 p.m.	Business After Hours- Bangor Savings Bank & Children's Discovery Museum
Fri., Oct. 20	7:30 a.m.	Marketing & Membership Committee
Wed., Oct. 25	3:00 p.m.	Executive Committee
Thurs. Oct, 26	11 a.m.-4 p.m.	Board Retreat—Parsonage House
Fri., Oct. 27	8:00 a.m.	Public Policy

7  
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 VP Commercial Banker  
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[jbutera@skowhegansavings.com](mailto:jbutera@skowhegansavings.com)

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# People News

**Skowhegan Savings Bank** has promoted Andrew Fortin-Trimble to senior vice president and chief marketing officer. Congrats!

**HealthReach** staff at Belgrade Regional Health Center happily welcomes Kaylee Wolfe, Family Nurse Practitioner, to its team. Welcome aboard.

**Day's Jewelers** newest addition to its board of directors is Charles Stanley, who brings more than 2 decades of experience at De Beers, including his role as NA president after serving in various roles there. The heartbeat of Day's Jewelers is diamonds, and Stanley's profound history within the diamond industry renders him an excellent addition to the Day's Jewelers board of directors.

**US Cellular** has named Brandi McCune as director of sales and operations for its NE region. Welcome!

**Camden National Bank** announced that Matthew Witten has joined the company as senior VP, director of information security. Welcome aboard!

Welcome to Nichole Kindelan who became an Allen **Insurance and Financial** employee-owner recently and joined the Waterville area business insurance team.

Congratulations to Mindy Neal who has been named **SKILLS Inc.'s** 2023 Direct Support Professional of the Year.

**Maine State Chamber** is pleased to announce a new member of its Advocacy Team - Ashley Luszczki as a Government Relations Specialist.

Michele Pelletier, of Performance Foodservice – NorthCenter, and husband Dan Webster III, retired from the State of Maine, are co-chairing **United Way of Kennebec Valley's** annual appeal effort.



**OCTOBER '23 SPEAKER SERIES:  
MBINGO MOUNTAIN COFFEE:  
BREWING SUPPORT FOR SMALL-SCALE COFFEE FARMERS**  
Churchill Elangwe Preston, founder  
Thursday, October 12 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Join **Mbingo Mountain Coffee** founder Churchill Elangwe Preston as he discusses how Mbingo Mountain Coffee is on a mission to create a coffee brand that emphasizes our strong connections with coffee-growing communities, fair trade principles, and environmentally responsible approaches to cultivation.



**Maine Film Center**  
Paul J. Schupf Art Center, 93 Main Street, Waterville

*This event is free, thanks to the Harold Alford Institute for Business Innovation at Thomas College.*

Register on Eventbrite.  
FMI: [www.centralmaine.org](http://www.centralmaine.org) or [www.dirigolabs.org](http://www.dirigolabs.org)

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## KV Connect invests in free suicide prevention workshop



In recognition of Suicide Awareness Month, Mid-Maine Chamber's young professionals group, KV Connect, hosted a free-and-open-to-the-public forum on Friday, Sept. 21 in its boardroom with approximately 20 area nonprofit, business, and educational professionals in attendance.

Presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), two presenters reviewed the signs to look for, debunked myths, provided resources, and talked about how to talk about suicide as well as how to speak to those who you suspect may be vulnerable.

**Waterville Police and Fire** have a portal where businesses can put in an emergency contact should first responders need to reach someone during off hours.

<https://www.waterville-me.gov/fire/emergency-contact>



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# Calendar of Events

**Every Monday, 1 to 4 p.m. Career Help at the Library.** A consultant from the **CareerCenter** will be at the **Waterville Public Library** every Monday to assist with your job search needs. FMI: [librarian@watervillelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@watervillelibrary.org) or call 207-872-5433.

**Tuesdays, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Crafternoons, Waterville Public Library,** 73 Elm St, Waterville. Come to the Children's Room to make the craft with help from library staff! FMI: Call 207-872-5433, or email [librarian@watervillelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@watervillelibrary.org), or go to [www.watervillelibrary.org](http://www.watervillelibrary.org) or [www.facebook.com/watervillelibrary](https://www.facebook.com/watervillelibrary)

**Wednesdays, 2-3:30 p.m., Waterville Chess Club** meets to play at the **Muskie Community Center**. Chessboards provided. To register call 207-873-4745 or visit 38 Gold St., Waterville.

**Thursdays, 7 - 7:30 p.m. Book Bites! (Facebook Read-A-Loud) Waterville Public Library.** Each week Mrs. Liz will read an excerpt from one book off of the New Chapter Books shelves. See the video on FMI: Call 207-872-5433, or email [librarian@watervillelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@watervillelibrary.org), or go to [watervillelibrary.org](http://watervillelibrary.org) or [facebook.com/watervillelibrary](https://facebook.com/watervillelibrary)

**Thursdays thru November, 2-6 p.m., Waterville Farmers' Market,** Head of Falls, downtown Waterville. FMI: [watervillefarmersmarket.org](http://watervillefarmersmarket.org)

**Thursdays, 1-2 p.m. Homeschool Hub, Waterville Public Library.** Homeschool students who are pre-school through elementary grade levels\* are invited to come to the library for fun and activities! \*The Bartlett Room for Teens is available for older siblings. FMI: email [librarian@watervillelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@watervillelibrary.org) or call 207-842-5433.

**Wed. Oct. 4, 11 a.m. Mid-Maine Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Coastal Med. Tech.,** 177 College Ave., Waterville. FMI: [coastalmedtech.com](http://coastalmedtech.com).

**Fri. Oct. 6, Celebrate First Friday in Downtown Waterville, Main St. Waterville, Waterville Creates'** First Fridays celebrate the vibrant creativity in Waterville through a wide array of arts experiences. On the first Friday of every month, visit

Main Street in downtown Waterville to meet artists, see performances, listen to live music, eat delicious food, shop at local businesses, enjoy the arts, and come together as a community. FMI: [watervillecreates.org](http://watervillecreates.org).

**Sat. Oct. 7 MaineGeneral Health's Day of Hope Celebration and Fundraiser.** 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Augusta Civic Center. FMI or to register, [give.mainegeneral.org/HOPE](http://give.mainegeneral.org/HOPE).

**Sat. Oct. 7, 10 a.m. Waterville Historical Society Annual Meeting** followed by a **Membership Open House** from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., 62 Silver St., Waterville. FMI: 207-872-9439 email: [info@watervillehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@watervillehistoricalsociety.org)

**Sat. Oct. 14, Family Story Time. Waterville Public Library.** This month we're celebrating family with special guest and local children's book author, Jeanine Deas! Ms. Deas will read from her books *We're All In the Kitchen* and *Twinkle, Twinkle, Where You Are*, and lead participants in a fun craft! FMI: 207-872-5433 or email [ldavis@watervillelibrary.org](mailto:ldavis@watervillelibrary.org).

**Sun., Oct. 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Beth Israel Synagogue Open House.** 291 Main St., Waterville. Free, all welcome. FMI: [bethisraelwaterville.org](http://bethisraelwaterville.org).

**Wed. Oct. 18, 3 p.m. Mid-Maine Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Baking with Danielle,** 33 Temple St., Waterville. FMI: [bakingwithdanielle.com](http://bakingwithdanielle.com).

**Thurs. Oct. 19, GrowSmart Maine Summit 2023. 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m.** Waterville Opera House. 93 Main St., Waterville. FMI or to register: [growsmartmaine.org/2023-summit](http://growsmartmaine.org/2023-summit).

**Fri. Oct. 20 6 p.m. KVCC: Evening for Education Gala. KVCC, 92 Western Ave., Fairfield.** The Gala celebrates KVCC students, faculty, and programs and unites business and community members together in support of student success! FMI: [foundation@kvcc.me.edu](mailto:foundation@kvcc.me.edu), (207) 453-5020.

**Fri. Oct. 20, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Head of Falls. Studio B – Together.** Studio B, a Maine art and social

engagement nonprofit, presents *Together*, a project organized by artist Peter Bruun in partnership with Waterville Creates. The project is designed to enable residents to share positive community experiences through art and story, to highlight existing community-building initiatives, and to strengthen connections among all those invested in a healthy, whole, diverse Waterville.

**Sat. Oct. 21, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Flutie 5K at Pine Tree Camp,** 114 Pine Tree Camp Road, North Pond, Rome. FMI: (207) 386-5990.

**Sat. Oct. 21, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., Community Storywalk, North Street Community Trail, Waterville.** FMI: [midmaine.coursestorm.com](http://midmaine.coursestorm.com)

**Wed. Oct. 25, 3 p.m. Mid-Maine Chamber Ribbon Cutting: Main Street Provisions,** 62 Main St., Waterville. FMI: [mainstreetprovisions@gmail.com](mailto:mainstreetprovisions@gmail.com)

**Sat. Oct. 28, 3-5 p.m. Alford Youth and Community Center Trunk or Treat.** 126 North St. Waterville. Join us for a fun and safe variation of trick or treating. Children of all ages are welcome to dress up in their best costume. Our facility is hosting an Open House at the same time for those who would like to tour our amazing facility. FMI: Avery Ryan at [aryan@clubaycc.org](mailto:aryan@clubaycc.org)

**Sat. Oct. 28, Waterville Public Library hosts the 5th Annual Nosh & Knock Off: An Interactive Mystery Event Fundraiser.** Tickets available on Eventbrite. FMI: Call 207-872-5433, email [librarian@watervillelibrary.org](mailto:librarian@watervillelibrary.org), or go to [watervillelibrary.org](http://watervillelibrary.org).

**Sun. Oct. 29, Humane Society's 3rd Annual Trunk or Treat Fundraiser,** 2-5 p.m. 100 Webb Rd, Waterville. This year will include over 30+ community trunks, a selection of Halloween craft vendors, an assortment of local food trucks, field games with prizes, a haunted trail, a bounce house, and more! FMI: (207) 873-2430.

**SHARE YOUR EVENTS!**  
E-mail [deborah@midmainechamber.com](mailto:deborah@midmainechamber.com).



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**FARMERS' MARKET**

# Member News

**Staples®** reminds you that you can deliver your Amazon returns to its location on Waterville Commons Drive.

According to **MaineBiz**, transportation services in 4 rural ME counties are getting a boost from \$650,462 in federal dollars. The money is being allocated through the MDOT to 2 nonprofit orgs., Penquis and Kennebec Valley Community Action Program, to expand ride services for residents in Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset and Kennebec counties. These orgs. will use the funds to upgrade technology, increasing efficiency through the use of real-time data and enhanced scheduling and dispatching. A fare card system will also expand payment options for riders. Last yr., Penquis and KVCAP made transportation available for nearly 8k Mainers in need, providing 454,766 rides that covered 8.6M miles.

WinterKids has announced the recipients of its Downhill 24 Outdoor Fund 2nd-yr. grants, totaling \$51k, to 12 orgs. across ME. These grants are aimed at promoting outdoor activities and encouraging children to stay active throughout the yr. Maine 501 Nonprofits Category awarded \$10k to **Pine Tree Camp** and in the ME Parks & Rec. Honorable Mention Category, **Quarry Road Trails** will receive \$500.

The Institute for Family-Owned Business released the names of finalists recently, with plans to announce the winners at an Oct. 18 event. Hosting the awards this year is Amanda Hill, news anchor for WCSH, also known as **NEWSCENTER Maine**. Out of 500 ME cos. nominated for this year's family business awards, 26 finalists are in the running for the annual contest. Of those, **Holy Cannoli** has made the cut!

**Cianbro** has won a \$112.76M National Park Service contract to rebuild a portion of the National Mall Tidal Basin in D.C. It will rehab 6,800 ft of failing seawalls around the basin, along the Potomac River through W. Potomac Park. The Great American Outdoors Act National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund is funding it.

**Aubuchon Hardware** raised over 343k to donate to over 100 regional charities. The Aubuchon Company and its employees are committed to giving time, talent and resources to make the company and the community a better place. This spring, it raised money (through in-store round-up campaigns). Additionally, the amount contributed was then matched up to \$2,500 per charity by the Aubuchon Foundation.

**Maine International Trade Center** will receive \$350k in fed. money to boost ME sm. biz. exports. The funding will support activities such as participating in foreign trade missions & export trade show exhibits, market sales trips, international marketing campaigns, and attending training workshops. The money comes from the **U.S. Small Business Administration's** State Trade Expansion Program and is part of a \$20M tranche of grants awarded to 49 state and territory international trade agencies. Since 2020, over 60 sm. bizs in ME have received financial assistance to support their international

exporting, resulting in \$6.9M in actual sales and an additional \$76.3M expected in the next 12 --18 mos. The figures represent a 13:1 immediate ROI and a projected 143:1 future return on grant funds, according to the SBA.

**Bixby Chocolate** secured three prestigious accolades from the International Chocolate Awards for their exceptional creations. Silver Award for Belize 70% Dark Chocolate Bar. Silver Award for Maine Grains Oat Milk Bar. Bronze Award for Split Rock Bourbon Bar 70% Dark Chocolate.

**Dirigo Labs** and its partner, the **Skowhegan Center for Entrepreneurship**, are pleased to announce that **Kennebec Savings Bank** will once again be the Lead Sponsor for the 2023 Better Maine Conference, taking place on October 5th in downtown Waterville. This year's conference will focus on "Growing a Diverse Workforce" and feature keynote speaker Kerem Durdag, president and COO of GWI.

More than 100 people participated in August's Cross for **LifeFlight**. Participants joined from all over the state, ranging in age from 1 to 79. Some ran, some hiked, some biked, some walked, some swam, and still others "Crossed" in more creative ways. Together, contributors raised more than \$214k toward this yr.'s \$250k goal.

Congratulations to the following **Maine Development Foundation** award winners: Kenneth M. Curtis Award – Claudette Ndayannahaze, exec. dir. of In Her Presence; ICL Distinguished Alum Award – Tony Payne, senior VP of MEMIC; Champion of Education & Workforce Dev. – Inclusion ME founder Mohammad Humza Khan; President's Award – U ME System; Champion of Rural Economic De. Award – LP Building Products & Ryan Bushey, HR & safety mgr.; William F. King, Jr. Downtown Champion Award – Phyllis Young, retired BOD chair, Heart of Ellsworth.

Recently, **United Way of Kennebec Valley (UWKV)** launched its '23 fundraising season with \$1,103,723 in committed early support at the Campaign Kickoff Breakfast — an increase of more than \$100k from last yr.'s event. 18 businesses reported early campaign success to a crowd of more than 250 people at the breakfast. Last year, 1 in 4 Kennebec County residents received direct support from one of 58 funded UWKV programs -- a net increase of 9 programs over last yr. — with requests for funding exceeding available dollars by \$400k. This data highlights the significant increase in need for services that has been impacting not only Kennebec County, but many nonprofits across the state.

The Philip C. Hastings Award, presented by efficiency Maine, for significant contributions to energy efficiency and to the state's environmental stewardship through exemplarily support of the efficiency Maine program, was presented recently to the **Industrial Energy Consumers Group** in recognition of the over 375 efficiency projects and millions of dollars invested in reduction energy use as well as carbon output. Congratulations!

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# Chamber committee opposes Question 3

Mid-Maine Chamber's Public Policy committee and Board of Directors' has taken the position to oppose Question 3 on your Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> ballot joining Gov. Mills, former Gov. LePage, IBEW and AFL-CIO in their opposition. We arrived at the decision after lots of discussion and for several reasons. First and foremost, if the government can take over our power companies, what is to prevent it from taking over your broadband provider, natural gas supplier, or cable service? Do we really want the government to take over private businesses? Where does it stop? In the same way that we are opposed to this now, we would be opposed to a government takeover of your business. I could stop here and declare that this why we are opposed, but there's more to dislike in this bill. Do we want elected officials – and some "experts" hired by these elected officials – running our electric delivery system?

Additionally, the math that claims a savings supporting government power just doesn't work. A public power company would need to hire an organization to run it adding an additional layer of bureaucratic expense, and that organization could be CMP and Versant again – there is nothing in the current legislation preventing that from occurring if it passes. Also not included in the legislation is any verbiage guaranteeing that the state would get to carbon neutrality any more quickly than we are now.

And finally, it's the sheer expense of it. From what I've read and heard, estimates place the expense between \$7 and \$13.5 BILLION dollars, which would be borrowed by the state of Maine against future income from ratepayers. Money would be borrowed at a lower interest rate since this would be a government entity, but ratepayers would be on the hook for the debt. Even if the state could borrow at zero interest rate, that's a lot of money to have to pay back!

If you or your business so desire, Mid-Maine Chamber has free NO on 3 door/bumper stickers and lawn signs. They're located right in our entryway for your ease and convenience –help yourself.

# Welcome New Members

## Best Buddies International

46 Johnson Heights  
Waterville, ME 04901

## Boulerice Management LLC

325 Main St, Waterville, ME 04901  
Matthewboulerice@nergmaine.com

## Discover Osteopractic Physical Therapy

4 Leavitt St., Skowhegan, ME 04976  
drwise@discoveropt.com

## E2Tech

Eric Howard  
PO Box 8517, Portland, ME 04104  
eric@e2tech.org

## Framework for Fundraising

Mike Hersey  
15 Martin Ave., Waterville, ME 04901  
hersey@fwfraising.com

## IV HydraLounge

350 KMD Ste 1, Waterville, ME 04901  
ohlightenup@icloud.com

## Maine Affordable Energy Coalition

Mr. James Stretch  
194 Ashmont St., Portland, ME 04103  
james@maineaffordableenergy.org

## Maine Savings FCU

912 Main St., N. Vassalboro, ME 04962  
rjandreau@mainesavings.com

## Main Street Provisions

Zachary Brann  
62 Main St., Waterville, ME 04901  
mainstreetprovisions@gmail.com

## Purdue Global

222 KMD, Waterville, ME 04901  
Russell.mckee@purdueglobal.edu

## Royal Hong Kong BBQ

Bob Tang  
40 Elm St., Waterville, ME 04901  
cindytang2050@gmail.com

## US Small Business Administration

Keith Lind  
68 Sewall St., Augusta, ME 04330

*Learn about the benefits of joining the chamber! Grow your network, participate in committees, display your business materials in our visitor center, submit news, post job openings and events. Meet new community members and expand your reach. If you would like to join the chamber please email [bridget@midmainechamber.com](mailto:bridget@midmainechamber.com)*

## UPCOMING RIBBON CUTTINGS

Wed., Oct. 4 at 11 a.m.  
COASTAL MED TECH,  
177 College Ave.  
Waterville

Wed. Oct. 18 at 3 p.m.  
BAKING WITH DANIELLE  
33 Temple St.  
Waterville

Wed., Oct. 25 at 4 p.m.  
MAIN STREET PROVISIONS  
62 Main St.  
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## CHAMBER BOARDROOM RENTAL

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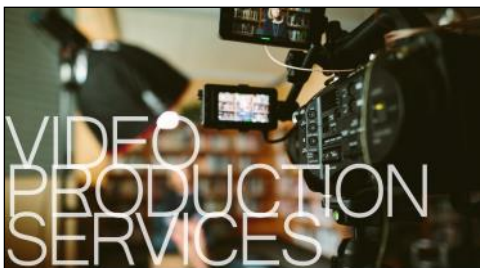
Call Debbie at 873-3315 to book!

## CHAMBER ENERGY SOLAR OFFSET

18 TREES SAVED  
IN SEPTEMBER



Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce is proud to maintain an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.



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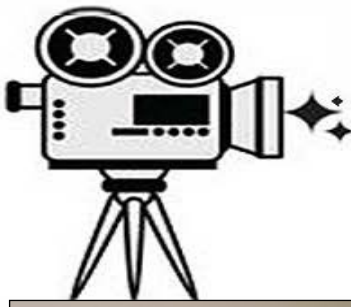


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# Chamber Chatter

Did you know that one of your Chamber Member benefits is the ability to have a Chamber Chatter segment filmed right at your business?

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Grow your brand and get some great exposure. Share your business story, special events information and more.

Interviews are conducted by our Chamber host, Meryia Michaud, and are approximately 5 minutes in length. No need to worry, we also have the ability to make edits.

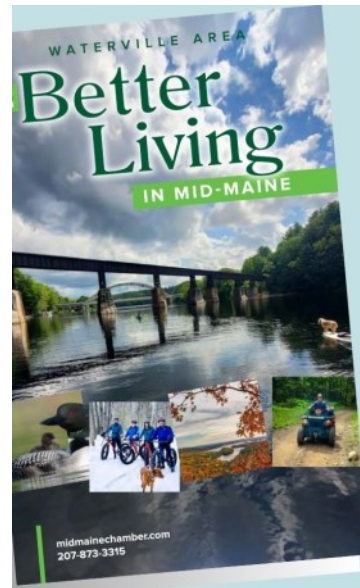
If you would like to get on the schedule, please reach out to [Kimberly@midmainechamber.com](mailto:Kimberly@midmainechamber.com).

Thank you Chamber Chatter Sponsors:  
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## PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE BETTER LIVING IN MID-MAINE GUIDEBOOK!

These handy biennial booklets are distributed locally in our Mid-Maine Chamber region and beyond! You will see them in lobbies, offices, libraries and state information centers along I-95. Great for: recruiting purposes, visitors, friends and family!!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING A SPACE IN THIS BOOK CONTACT BRIDGET CAMPBELL AT 207-242-5639 OR EMAIL [BRIDGET@MIDMAINECHAMBER.COM](mailto:BRIDGET@MIDMAINECHAMBER.COM)

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## Member Spotlight: Waterville Area Soup Kitchen - The Lighthouse



Once upon a time in a bustling city, there lived a middle-aged man named David, who had fallen on hard times, and his once-thriving career had crumbled, leaving him unemployed and struggling to make ends meet. Every day was a struggle, and he often went to bed hungry.

One chilly autumn morning, David heard about a place called “The Lighthouse,” a humble soup kitchen renowned for serving warm meals to those in need. With a

glimmer of hope in his heart, he decided to visit. The moment he stepped inside, he was enveloped by the comforting aroma of homemade soup and the welcoming smiles of the volunteers.

David’s first meal at The Lighthouse was a simple bowl of chicken vegetable soup, accompanied by salad and a piece of bread. As he savored each spoonful, a wave of warmth washed over him, not just from the soup but from the kindness and compassion that surrounded him. The staff and volunteers treated him with dignity, making him feel like a valued guest rather than someone in need.

This one meal a day at The Lighthouse became a lifeline for David. It

wasn’t just nourishment for his body; it was nourishment for his soul. It gave him hope, a sense of belonging, and a daily reminder that even in his darkest days, there were people who cared.

As weeks turned into months, David’s life began to change. The routine of coming to The Lighthouse introduced structure into his day, and the support he received extended beyond the meal. The staff helped him connect with social services, and he eventually found a job opportunity that he had never expected.

With newfound confidence and determination, David managed to get back on his feet. He no longer relied solely on The Lighthouse for meals, but he continued to visit, not as a guest in need, but as a volunteer, eager to give back and be a source of hope for others just as he had once been.

“The Lighthouse” had not just filled David’s belly; it had illuminated his path out of darkness. It taught him the power of compassion, and how one simple act of kindness — a warm meal — could make all the difference in someone’s life. And so, the story of David and The Lighthouse became a testament to the enduring impact of kindness and the resilience of the human spirit.

If you would like to be part of The Lighthouse story please contact them: Waterville Area Soup Kitchen, 38 College Avenue, Waterville  
Mailing Address: PO Box 1494, Waterville, ME 04903  
Phone: 207-859-3063  
Email: [info@watervilleareasoupkitchen.com](mailto:info@watervilleareasoupkitchen.com)

# 55,824 Meals Served as of September 1, 2023





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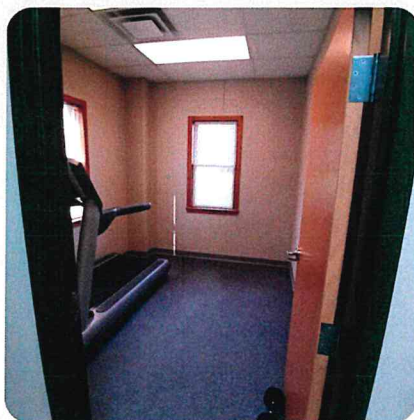
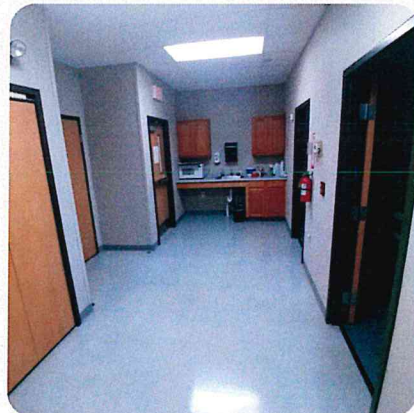


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# Business Breakfast Series

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## TOPIC: "Question 3, Pine Tree Power: Promises vs. Realities" Co-Sponsored by Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce and KV Chamber



Jim Cohen -Verrill Dana

**When:** Thursday, October 5, 7:15 - 9:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Best Western Plus, 375 Main St., Waterville

Jim Cohen, partner with the law firm Verrill Dana will speak on the Pine Tree Power question.

Cohen has been practicing utilities and energy law for over 30 years on behalf of solar developers, utilities, and consumers. Jim currently works with [Maine Affordable Energy](#) which is a ballot question committee formed to help educate Mainers about the risks associated with Pine Tree Power, Question 3 on the November ballot.

Mid- Maine Chamber and KV Chamber have been studying this issue and have taken a formal position to oppose the effort.

Please join us to learn more about the realities of what Pine Tree Power would mean for utility costs, and why our Chambers strongly oppose Question 3.

Come prepared with your questions and take this opportunity to network with other business leaders.

Check out our October spotlighter booth:



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Pre-register today: cost per person: \$23 members; \$29 at the door and non-members. TO REGISTER: [cindy@midmainechamber.com](mailto:cindy@midmainechamber.com) or 873-3315.

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**Thursday ~ November 2, 2023**

**3:30—5 p.m.**

Zoom and in-person formats are offered, though in-person lunch  
attendance is encouraged.

Once you register, you will receive the link for the meeting.

**In-Person:**

**Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce ~ 50 Elm St., Waterville—873-3315**

Happy hour drinks and light appetizers will be provided for in-person attendees.

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@midmainechamber.com.

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# The Staggering Costs of Pine Tree Power

Question 3 on the ballot this November proposes seizing Maine's two largest utilities to create a politically controlled utility called Pine Tree Power. This proposed takeover poses an enormous risk to Mainers.



## \$13,500,000,000 IN DEBT



**Pine Tree Power would cost \$13.5 billion**

Over 2X Maine's Annual Budget

One way or the other, we will all be on the hook for this debt – and that could mean higher taxes or cuts in critical services that we rely on.

## POLITICIANS IN CHARGE



**Partisan politicians, not experts, will be in charge of our electric grid**

Partisan politicians will be in charge of tens of thousands of miles of wires and poles. Investments in grid reliability and upgrades to support clean energy will be subject to political whims and special interests.

## TOO RISKY FOR MAINE



**Pine Tree Power: massive debt, political control of the grid and no plan for the future**

The Pine Tree Power proposal doesn't include a plan to improve reliability or service – just a huge debt that we will all have to pay off through higher taxes or electric bills and politically controlled management that will change with each election.





# WHO'S WITH US?

Over **100** organizations

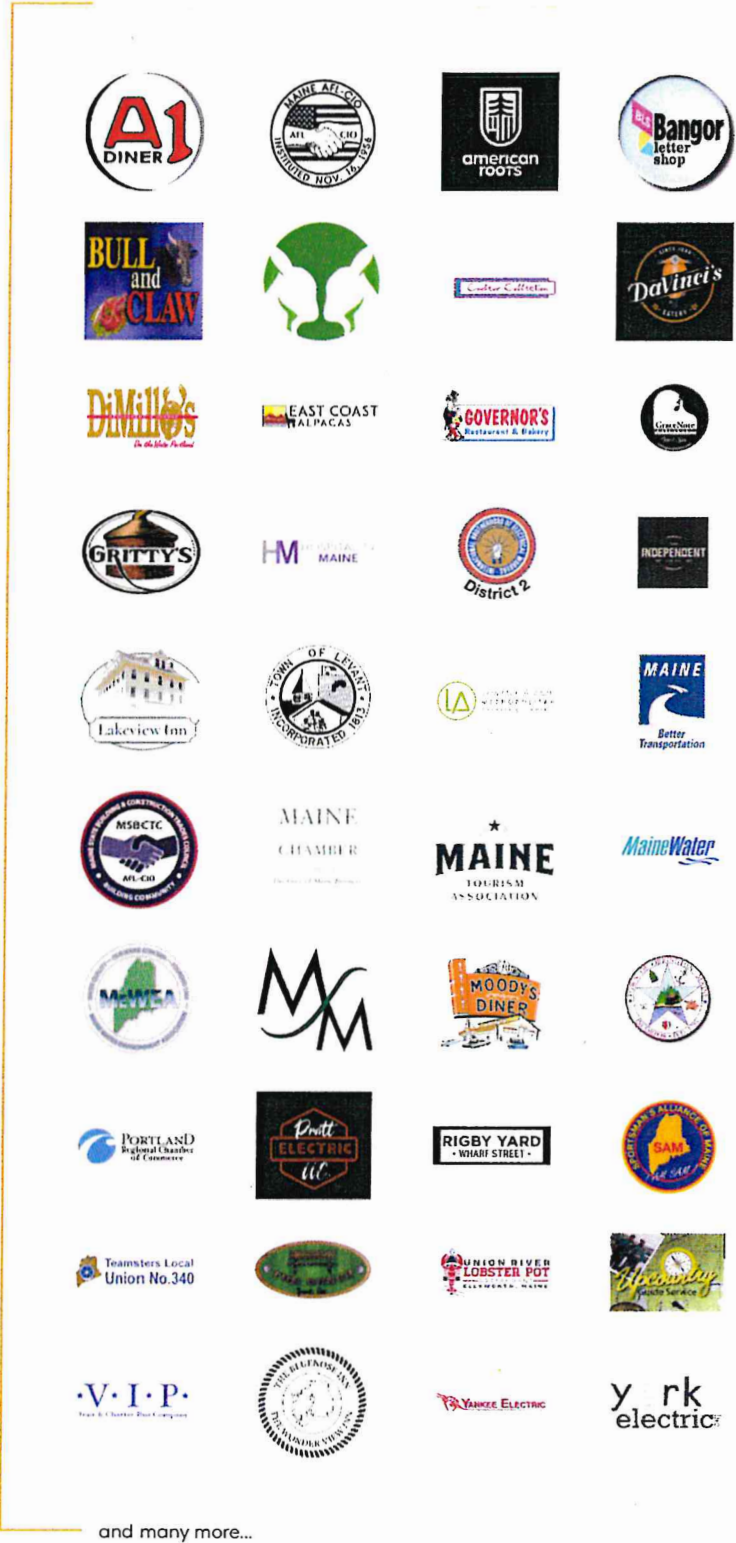
from the AFL-CIO of Maine and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, to the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, and over 10,000 individual Mainers (+ counting) **oppose the Pine Tree Power takeover of our electric grid.**

**VOTE NO 3 ON**  
**NoPineTreePower.org**



To learn more or to join the coalition

Point your phone's camera here



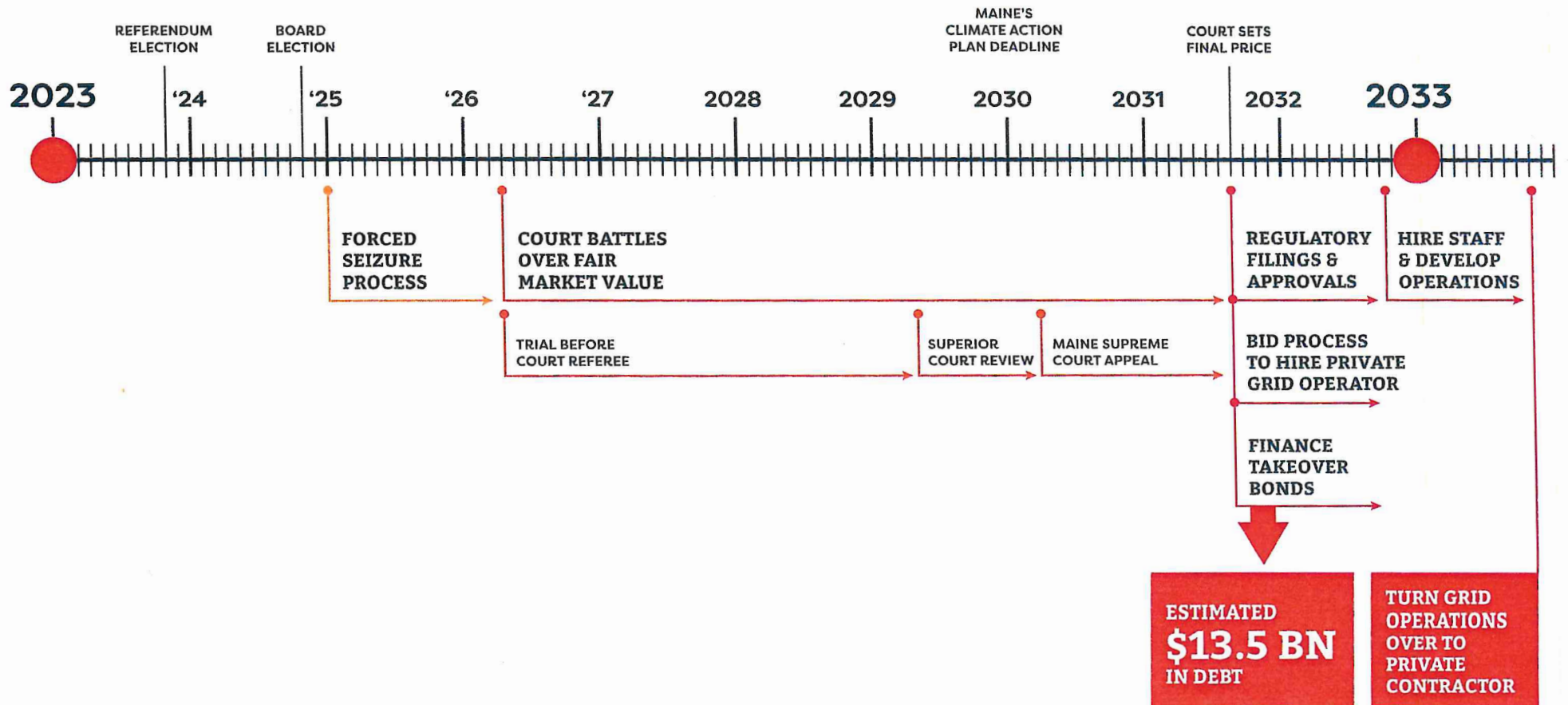
and many more...

# VOTE NO 3 ON

NoPineTreePower.org

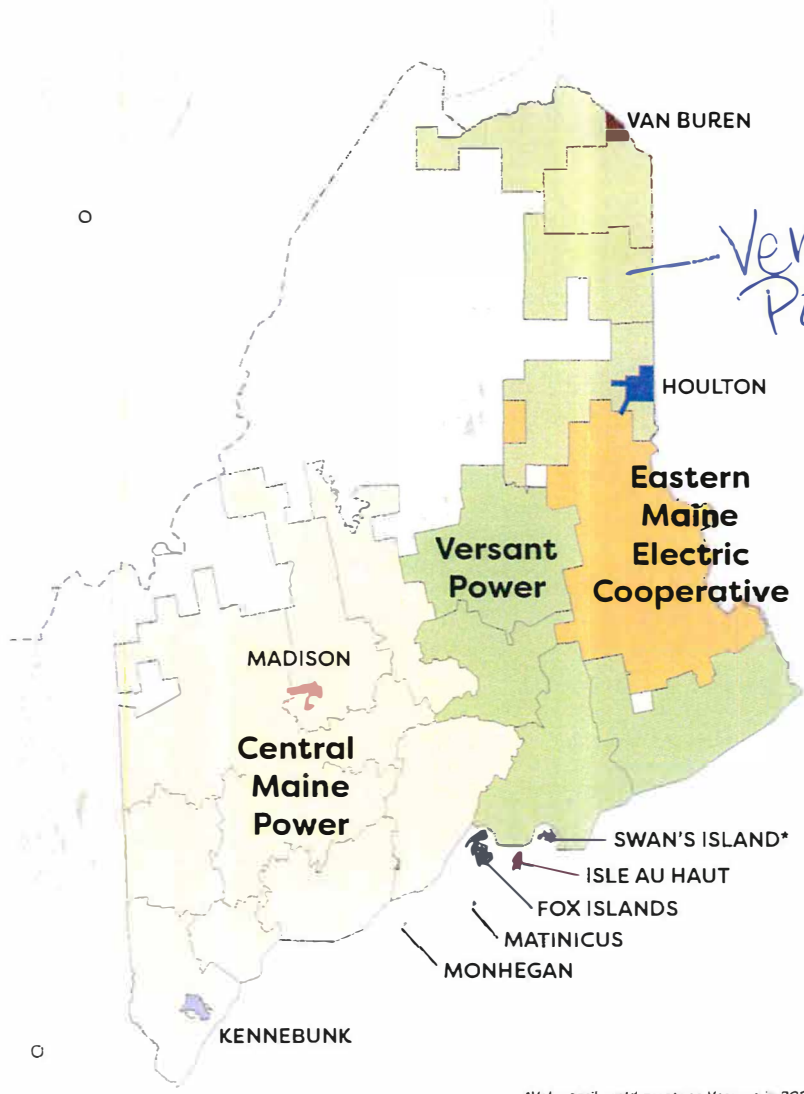
## Pine Tree Power Takeover Timeline

IF Question 3 passes, the Pine Tree Power takeover of Maine's electric grid will take **AT LEAST 10 YEARS**, we will **PAY BILLIONS OF DOLLARS** to seize it and we will end up with an **OUT-OF-STATE, FOR-PROFIT** grid operator at the end.



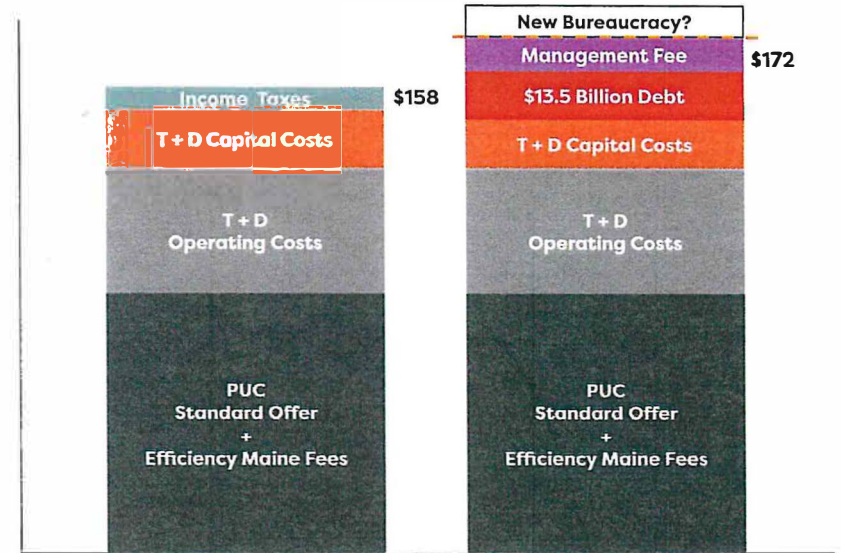


# Pine Tree Power: a \$13.5 Billion Debt and Higher Rates



\*Voluntarily sold assets to Versant in 2021

## Average Residential Electric Bill Current vs. After a Takeover



CURRENT                      AFTER TAKEOVER

T + D = Transmission + Distribution

\*Based on average residential customer bill of 550 kWh/month

## \$13.5 Billion: The True Cost of Seizing CMP and Versant

