



## THE EMP COALITION

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10 December 2013

Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
Maine State Legislature  
Augusta, Maine

Senator John Cleveland, Chair  
Representative Barry Hobbins, Chair  
Senator Troy Jackson  
Senator Edward Youngblood  
Representative Roberta Beavers  
Representative Diane Russell  
Representative Sara Gideon  
Representative Deane Rykerson  
Representative Ryan Tipping-Spitz  
Representative Larry Dunphy  
Representative Aaron Libby  
Representative Lance Harvell  
Representative Melvin Newendyke

Dear Senator Cleveland, Representative Hobbins, and All Distinguished Members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:

It has been a while since the hearings on LD131, but your work remains very much an object of our interest. We highly commend all the Members of the Committee, who supported unanimously Rep. Andrea Boland's initiative to protect the Maine electric grid from natural and man-made electromagnetic pulse (EMP). Chairman Hobbins' careful and respectful managing of the hearings set a tone that enabled review of important utility EMP data. Your wisdom and courage come at a time of unprecedented risk, and have set a positive example for the nation.

Your work is already being emulated by other States. In Alaska, Florida, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah, state legislators and grassroots citizens' groups have arisen to try repairing the dangerous vulnerabilities of their own energy security.

Washington, too, has noted Maine's example and been inspired to try again to protect the national electric grid. On October 30, 2013, Rep. Trent Franks, Co-Chairman of the Congressional EMP Caucus, introduced "The Critical Infrastructure Protection Act," a bill to

require the Department of Homeland Security to start planning and training at the Federal, State and local levels for EMP catastrophic preparedness.

As you know, despite overwhelming bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress for bills such as the GRID Act and the SHIELD Act, the electric power lobby has always managed to manipulate the committee system to block passage of any bill to protect the national power grid from EMP. Likewise, despite issuance by the White House of prudent executive orders, like Presidential Policy Directive 8 "National Preparedness," the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has denied the reality of such threats, and done nothing to protect the national power grid – the most critical of all critical infrastructures – that makes possible modern civilization and sustains the lives of 310 million Americans.

Your bold action to protect the Maine electric grid will ensure that at least the people of your State shall survive catastrophic collapse of the national power grid induced by a severe solar storm, man-made EMP event, cyber attack, or other cause. EMP protection will also mitigate all lesser hazards, such as blackouts induced by hurricanes and storms.

Moreover, the survival of Maine's power grid shall significantly enhance the energy security of neighboring states and of the regional grid by facilitating their more rapid recovery from blackout.

Owing to your foresight, the New England states may be spared the worst consequences of a nationwide EMP catastrophe that could cause nine-out-of-ten Americans to perish from starvation, disease or societal collapse.

Please continue to be vigilant. As the Maine Public Utilities Commission considers whether and how to implement your Resolution for EMP preparedness, we understand that the electric power industry is lobbying at all levels of government, to do nothing.

We urge you to stay alert in particular to any proposed changes or "improvements" to your Resolution by the Public Utilities Commission or other parties and to remain on the brave course you have begun – to achieve EMP protection of the electric grid in the State of Maine.

The nation already owes you a great debt for being the first to take action to protect the American people from the existential horror that is EMP. In this time of looming threats from solar storms and cyber terrorism, what Winston Churchill said of the Royal Air Force during the Battle of Britain is also true of you: "Never have so many owed so much to so few."

Respectfully,



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Commission,  
Science Advisor to President Reagan,  
Acting Administrator of NASA



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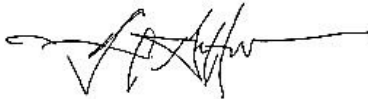
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IEC Lord Kelvin Medal for Protection from  
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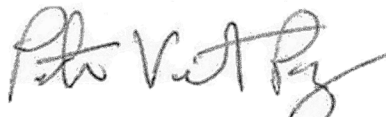
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