



**TOWN OF FALMOUTH
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LD 1251**

WHEREAS, the Town of Falmouth currently leases from the area electrical power Transmission & Delivery Utility, Central Maine Power, approximately 612 street lights on utility poles throughout the Town at an annual cost of over \$90,000 to Falmouth's taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of the Town's street lights are attached to power transmission and delivery poles located within state or municipal rights-of-way along roads and streets; and

WHEREAS, state law requires power Transmission & Delivery Utilities to share space on these utility poles with other utilities such as companies providing cable TV or phone service; and

WHEREAS, there being no comparable statutory or regulatory framework in Maine that provides for municipal ownership of street lighting systems located on power transmission and delivery poles, Maine's municipalities have no option to provide street lights on these utility poles other than through long-term leases with the electrical power Transmission & Delivery Utility; and

WHEREAS, states across the country, including at least five state in the Northeast, have encouraged competition in the Municipal Street Lighting market by providing frameworks for municipal ownership of street lighting systems on transmission and delivery poles as an option in addition to leasing from the transmission and delivery utility; and

WHEREAS, follow-up studies have found that municipalities' total costs for street lighting systems declined by 30% to 40% after options for town and city ownership became available; and

WHEREAS, Representative Mary Nelson is a co-sponsor of LD 1251 "An Act to Lower Costs to Municipalities and Reduce Energy Consumption through Increased Competition in the Municipal Street Light Market" which provides a framework for both municipal leasing and municipal ownership of street light systems on power transmission and delivery poles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH, that the Town Council hereby supports and urges the 126th Legislature to adopt LD 1251, with any amendments brought forward by its sponsors, and designates the Town Manager to communicate the Town Council's support to this bill's sponsors, other legislators, the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, and other municipal officials.

Approved this 8th day of April 2013.

Attest: _____
Town Clerk

Date: _____