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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Bernie Sanders Endorses Pine Tree Power**

July 27, 2023 - Today, as Iberdrola, the foreign owner of Central Maine Power, [reported a \\$2.78 billion and 21% increase in profit for the first half of 2023](#), Bernie Sanders endorsed the Pine Tree Power campaign, saying,

“This year, Mainers are facing price-gouging and immoral disconnection notices from multinational utility companies. Power belongs in the hands of the people, not greedy corporations.

Fortunately, Mainers have a rare chance to take control of an important part of their daily lives. Instead of a private power system that last year sent \$187 million in profits out of the country, Mainers can have cheaper, more reliable power—and help fight climate change at the same time. I’m proud to support the Pine Tree Power campaign, and I urge Mainers to support it as well.”

Bernie Sanders serves as the senior United States senator from Vermont and ran for president in 2016 and 2020. He has a long history of supporting working people over corporate profits.

Central Maine Power (CMP) and Versant Power have been making headlines this year for hiking rates in July after sending out 94,000 disconnection notices this spring. In other words, 10% of Maine customers could not afford their bills. In 2022, the companies raked in a combined \$187 million in profit. Because both utilities are owned by foreign corporations, that money was sent around the world to enrich shareholders rather than being reinvested in Maine communities to serve our people. Instead, voters can vote yes on Question 3 to move to Pine Tree Power.

Pine Tree Power campaign manager, Al Cleveland said of the endorsement, “Bernie Sanders knows that Pine Tree Power offers Maine a worthy alternative to CMP and Versant’s plan to bleed us dry with continued rate hikes. We are proud to have him standing alongside Mainers as we fight our investor-owned utilities — with their worst in the nation customer satisfaction, abysmal reliability, and \$27 million attempt to buy this election. Momentum the Pine Tree Power campaign continues to grow, and and we look forward to a win this November.”

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*Pine Tree Power is a grassroots coalition with members all the way from Fort Kent to Kittery. We are fighting for a utility that is owned and run by Mainers, for Mainers. By voting out CMP and Versant, we will bring back local control, save money, and reduce outages. It’s time to build power we can trust.*