



***Debate Illuminates Future of Maine's Energy
Landscape: Pine Tree Power Advocates for a
Consumer-First Approach***

Maine— In [last night's debate](#) on the future of electricity in Maine, Pine Tree Power's Lucy Hochschartner and Barbara Alexander, representing the utility campaigns, delved into questions and concerns surrounding Question 3 on the November Ballot: Should Maine create the [Pine Tree Power Company](#) to replace current for-profit utilities.

The debate touched on the cornerstones of this election: affordability, reliability, and local control.

Lucy Hochschartner expounded on Pine Tree Power's commitment to long-term savings for Mainers, underlining that every analysis on the cost and savings of transitioning to consumer-owned power, other than the one financed by CMP, has shown long-term savings. From day one, Pine Tree Power ensures tangible

financial benefits for Mainers, a sentiment echoed by independent Maine economists. Pine Tree Power will bring a monumental 9 billion dollars in savings over the next three decades, without sending funds overseas to foreign investors.

Customer service emerged as a critical facet of the debate. While Alexander acknowledged concerns about CMP's perceived disconnect with Mainers, she argued that existing checks and balances allow Mainers to demand better service and rates. But this hasn't been historically true.

CMP's customer service failures are not merely a matter of perception, but a stark reality necessitating change. For the last four years, [CMP has had the worst customer service rating in the nation](#). While they continue to let Mainers down, their [rates went up 50%](#) just this year. Pine Tree Power's ownership by Mainers ensures that their interests will be paramount, leading to heightened responsiveness and investments in Maine.

Notably absent from the debate were CMP and Versant, whose parent corporations have invested a staggering 35 million dollars in this election to thwart Pine Tree Power's progress. When asked about these corporations' main talking point, Ms. Alexander said, "I don't feel that it's appropriate to defend a number that is an estimate by people who are running the business."

Hochschartner concluded the debate with a poignant quote from Laura, a 75-year-old Mainer from Lincoln, burdened by an unaffordable \$1300-dollar bill from Versant. She, like so many other Mainers, is held captive by the current

utilities and has to make financial decisions that immediately impact their health.

Vote "Yes" on Question 3 to empower Pine Tree Power and reshape the future of energy in Maine.

For information, questions, or interview requests, visit pinetreepower.org or email Pine Tree Power's Campaign Manager Al Cleveland at al@ourpowermaine.org

#

[Pine Tree Power](#) is a grassroots coalition with members all the way from the coasts to the County. 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.

