



LD417 - An Act to Facilitate Net Energy Billing
Maine State Legislature, Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee
131st Legislature
March 2, 2023
Position: Favorable

Testimony of Arcadia on LD417

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this legislation. Arcadia urges the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee to favorably report out this important legislation. Below is an introduction to Arcadia and a brief explanation of why we support this legislation, and a solution to concerns about utility consolidated billing as initially proposed.

Introduction to Arcadia

Arcadia is building the software necessary for Mainers to realize the full benefits of clean energy. Today, customers face a bewildering assortment of energy technologies – ranging from energy efficiency and renewable energy to battery storage and electric vehicles – all of which have unique capabilities, costs, and user experiences. Arcadia’s software makes it possible for energy technology providers to delight their customers and move clean energy forward by enabling a simple user experience that saves people money.

The Company’s software is revolutionizing community solar, making it easy for people to sign up with guaranteed savings and without any risk. Today, Arcadia manages more than 150 megawatts of community solar across 34 projects in the state. Once energized, these projects will serve approximately 22,500 energy users. Nationwide Arcadia works with more than 40 developers to manage 475 community solar projects representing a combined 1.3 gigawatts of capacity, making it the largest subscriber manager in the country.

Support for LD417

The Maine NEB program allows all Mainers to access local renewable energy while receiving guaranteed savings on their power bills each month. However, unnecessary billing and crediting issues cost Mainers time and money they can’t get back. This bill will allow NEB participants to have a better experience, by creating more transparency into their community solar billing, notably into the credits and savings generated by their subscription.

The Maine NEB program expands access to renewable energy for lower income Mainers. Many of these individuals are also enrolled in budget billing. This bill would allow those customers enrolled in both NEB and budget billing to enjoy their NEB credits each month, like everyone else.

Lastly, the performance Based Adjustments in the bill aim to improve billing practices to ensure that customers receive credits in a timely, accurate manner.

Arcadia

Transparent and reliable billing and crediting is critical in ensuring that Mainers receive the most out of the NEB program.

We have also recently had very positive dialogue with Central Maine Power and Versant Power about collaborating on a solution to many of the issues raised in this legislation. These discussions are ongoing and we look forward to continuing them and then reporting back to this committee in the days ahead.

Conclusion

Arcadia asks for a favorable report on LD417. We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony and would be happy to answer questions. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Aya.Takai@arcadia.com or 314-210-4792 if you would like to discuss further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aya Takai". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aya Takai
Policy Specialist
Arcadia