

clifford Krolick  
Parsonsfield  
LD 1232

Testimony Speaking in favor of LD1232

Dear Senators Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and distinguished members of EUT committee.

My Name is Clifford Krolick a resident of Parsonsfield, Maine. I hold memberships in various organizations. I have extensive experience and research with clean power and have been a very early adopter of solar electric. Today I speak as a senior citizen and longtime supporter of truly clean and renewable energies.

The concept of LD 1232 is more than just expanding clean energy, It is a roadmap to provide climate friendly PV solar energy at affordable prices for all ratepayers. And its success lies with projects connecting to a grid that will offer greater capacity. And of particular importance is the advancement of reliable interconnections and strong local distribution and generation. Thanks to new funding, mandates, and technology more distributed energy products than ever before could and should come online.

Lawrence Berkley Labs, performed a survey of tens of thousands of solar projects over a period of years. It concluded that local Distributed Generation/roof top solar is considerably cheaper than utility-provided solar which averaged about 14 cents higher per kilowatt-hour than distributed, roof top solar.”

<https://ilsr.medium.com/the-free-delivery-farce-in-solar-223e4f032c1>

Our transition to clean energy spirited by the governor’s enthusiastic efforts “Maine Will Not Wait” does not appear to have led to decreased electric rates or does it seem to support an equitable energy transition. On the other hand, Distributed rooftop generation across the board will immediately provide price controls, equitability, and make Maine more climate resistant. Local roof top solar with Net Metering has a clear track record considerably lowering consumer electric costs.

According to Institute for Self- Reliance “All utilities should be required to do resource planning(coordinated with local commission approval) and such plans ought to include modeling distributed rooftop solar as a resource so we can accurately compare resource costs.” ISLR.org

Long distance transmission of high voltage electricity costs appear to remain elusive as long as for profit driven fossil fuel companies, like CMP’s parent company, remain in charge. Larger megawatt investor owned solar or wind farms would not only be exposed to CMP’s higher transmission rates but will also be determined by their investor needs.

I would like to see the EUT committee lead the way on responsible legislation that will direct the utility owners to NOT constrain our grid as more renewable PV is required, and at the same time should expect the utility to advance interconnection safety and reliability.

At present I would like to let legislators know that Maine currently has the 6th highest electric rates in the nation. And would like to remind legislators that presently the one clear way to substantially, reduce electric rates across the board, and address climate resiliency is to advance local distributed -roof top solar generation.

This paired with our Net Metering program that the legislature has endorsed, and providing subsidies, grants, and monies for small businesses and rate- payers through Efficiency Maine, would rapidly decrease consumers electric rates and meet the emissions goals of our state. A program of this magnitude would also provide jobs for dozens of small solar businesses and literally create thousands of new jobs for local people,