



Testimony in Opposition to LD 1232

“An Act to Increase Adoption of Solar Power in Maine”

April 4, 2023

Testimony of Anthony Hourihan

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and esteemed members of the committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in opposition to LD 1232.

As drafted, LD 1232 would require that all new construction of buildings 25,000 square feet or larger be solar-ready with a 40% or larger section of roof designated and reserved for solar installation. The requirements included in this bill would come at a tremendous cost for construction including engineering, building and maintenance.

If you must make 40% solar ready that equates to 10,000 square feet of panels and frames, and mounts, this will add a minimum of 12 tons of extra weight to a roof. Where our operations tend to be in the North, we already incur added costs for engineering and construction for heavy snow loads, and this will mean any future expansion will occur at even higher costs.

We believe that someone should determine if investment in a more robust building is worthwhile based on the payback the business can expect by investing in solar, not a legislative directive.

We fully support the transition to a green economy; however, we believe these solutions should be determined by individual businesses and urge you to vote **ought not to pass on LD 1232.**

Anthony Hourihan