



April 5, 2023

Senator Nicole Grohoski, Chair
Representative Joe Perry, Chair
Committee on Taxation
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in Opposition to LD 1153

To Senator Grohoski, Representative Perry and Members of the Committee on Taxation:

Please consider this written testimony in opposition to LD 1153. The Coalition for Community Solar Access (CCSA) is a national Coalition of businesses and non-profits working to expand customer choice and access to solar for all American households and businesses through community solar. Our mission is to empower every American energy consumer with the option to choose local, clean, and affordable community solar. We work with customers, utilities, local stakeholders, and policymakers to develop and implement policies and best practices that ensure community solar programs provide a win, win, win for all, starting with the customer.

CCSA is opposed to this legislation as filed. The community solar industry is committed to contributing its fair share of tax revenue to its local host communities. The industry has proactively approached the state in efforts to establish a statewide, uniform taxation policy that would provide meaningful revenues to local communities while ensuring predictability in project costs for solar developers. CCSA and its members remain committed to such efforts to find an alternative solution to either full taxation or exemption. By removing the personal property tax exemption for solar without any such alternative, LD 1153 would create significant uncertainty for projects, as assessment approaches and mill rates vary across municipalities. This legislation as filed also creates ambiguity for existing projects that have already secured financing and made commitments to subscribers for bill savings based upon the exemption in place. This added complexity and variability creates additional time, effort, and costs on the part of both project developers and local assessors and tax offices.

We look forward to continuing work with the Governor's Energy Office, Maine Revenue Services, this committee, and other stakeholders to identify and implement feasible solar taxation policy. Doing so will be necessary to fulfill the promise in the name of community solar, to bring tangible benefits to Maine municipalities. We urge you to vote ought not to pass as stakeholders continue this work.



Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kate Daniel
Northeast Regional Director
Coalition for Community Solar Access