



Testimony In Support of LD 1830
An Act to Advance Maine's Clean Energy Goals
May 9, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here on behalf of Versant Power in support of LD 1830.

As we collectively plan the necessary steps to accomplish our State's ambitious climate and clean energy objectives, it is important that we do so in a way that maximizes benefits to customers while minimizing costs. Versant Power supports the procurement of additional grid-scale renewable generation and believes strongly that procurements such as these are a cost-effective way to decarbonize our energy mix while maintaining affordability.

Specifically, as we have discussed previously with this Committee, we know that significant energy storage deployment will be necessary to integrate these renewable resources efficiently and in a manner that provides additional benefits to the grid and our customers. For these reasons we applaud Senator Vitelli's focus on "combined projects" paired with energy storage.

Lastly, Versant Power supports structuring these procurements in a way that allows the Public Utilities Commission the discretion necessary to maximize project benefits while minimizing costs in selecting bids. As proposed, LD 1830 would only allow for the PUC to select projects that the agency deems will benefit ratepayers and at a price that is less than standard offer. We believe that this strong safeguard provides an appropriate level of protection for ratepayers.

As with any major procurement, there will always be longer-term considerations about contracting provisions and technical issues associated with large-scale renewable energy deployment. Versant Power looks forward to being a collaborative, productive and trusted partner during those discussions.

We would be happy to provide additional information at the work session. Thank you for your consideration.