



AGC MAINE

THE CONSTRUCTION ASSOCIATION

Testimony of Matt Marks in support of LD 1850
“An Act Relating to Energy Storage and the State’s Energy Goals”
Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology
May 18, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is Matt Marks, I am a Principal at Cornerstone Government Affairs and here today to testify on behalf of my client AGC Maine.

Energy storage procurement will deliver additional value to Maine’s renewable generation market and support or sustain construction jobs. Building energy storage projects include several crafts from engineering, site preparation, concrete, structural, electrical, and hoisting equipment with cranes. In Texas’ Rio Grande Valley, a developer recently announced they will provide optimized grid battery storage, 200MW, leveraging the Federal Inflation Reduction Act.

By adding storage, Maine can optimize generation from wind and solar during peak production and use the energy as peak demand rises. A Commission¹ to Study the Economic, Environmental, and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry in 2019 found battery storage to have the potential to reduce costs and support renewable energy.

Maine’s statute² outlines goals for energy storage of 300 MW of installed capacity within the state by the end of 2025; and 400 MW installed by the end of 2030. Legislation signed by Governor Janet Mills set Maine on a path toward 100 percent clean energy and 80 percent emission reductions below 1990 levels by 2050.

The ISO forecasts that both energy use and peak demand will increase in New England over the next 10 years, 2.4% annually over the 10-year period, from the expected 138,081 gigawatt-hours (GWh) in 2023 to 171,050 GWh in 2032. The prediction is based on the added electricity required for EVs and the migration to electric heating/cooling.

Energy storage procurement is essential for Maine to reach our energy goals and provides additional engineering and construction activity in our state. AGC Maine urges the Committee to vote for LD 1850. Thank you, I am happy to answer any questions.

¹ Commission Study: https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/FINAL_LD2030%20Report.pdf

² LD 528: <https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/bills/getPDF.asp?paper=SP0213&item=3&snum=130>