

CLAYTON DAN MCKAY  
Dixfield  
LD 297

Chair Lawrence, Cahir Zeigler and Honorable Members of the EUT Committee

I would like to expand a little on LD297 An Act to Reduce Electric Rate Increases Due to Renewable Energy Credits - Rep. Steven Foster of Dexter

First of all, nobody needs to hear how electric bills are hurting Maine people through monthly electric bills, through extra costs at the supermarkets, convenience stores and just about any place one chooses to spend their money. And a little mention to inflation and increased taxes to raise wages of government workers and taxes to fund schools and municipal programs. So, it is kind of refreshing to see a bill that was conceived to reduce electric costs and a good place to start is renewable energy credits or as I like to call them, tokens or wooden nickels with a hell of a price associated with them.

The question to ask yourself is this REC program of any further use as it relates to initial design or just a gift to already over subsidized renewables? Why would solar in Maine need this handout, the NEB program has developers stumbling all over each trying to grab a parcel of land to set up their Chinese manufactured panels. The future REC market prices where Renewable Portfolio Standards create their demand are headed one way, UP and up in a hurry. But so is the carbon tax employed by the RGGI Program. By the way, both the REC and RGGI programs haven't decreased the production of electricity from natural gas-fired plants in New England. They have only increased electricity prices. Now, on the verge of the closure of the LNG Everett Terminal in Massachusetts along with the scheduled departure of the natural gas-fired Mystic Station, ISO-NE is warning of potential problems with their closure. Have you heard how much ISO-NE paid Mystic Station in supplemental capacity payments so that it would stay open for reliability. With that said, keeping the REC and RGGI programs would increase costs thus lessening consumer demand, maybe enough to avoid the dangers posed by the Everett Terminal and Mystic Station closures, although the low-income relief programs would work against decreasing demand. Talk about government programs that exacerbate the situation.

A concept is not a worthy concept unless it achieves its goal(s). Reducing electric rates by eliminating unjust programs is far better than reducing rate INCREASES, a clever accounting tactic Maine people are all too familiar with. Get off your high horses and do something for Maine people. Send the REC and RGGI programs to the ash heap of history. Repeal NEB, investigate Efficiency Maine Trust and their inflated efficiency numbers and dead-end programs. This energy regime you people have shoved down the throats of the good Maine people must be replaced by people of common sense.

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