

John Macauley  
Town of Mount Desert  
LD 1465

Testimony of John Macauley in opposition of  
LD 1465: An Act to Amend the Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under  
Net Energy Billing

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and honorable members of the Energy,  
Utility, and Technology Committee.

I am John Macauley, Head Selectmen for the Town of Mount Desert. Thank you for  
providing me with this opportunity to oppose LD 1465: An Act to Amend the  
Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under Net Energy Billing.

This bill works directly against Mount Desert's and Maine's climate goals. Our Town  
has identified solar energy as an integral part of our Climate Action Plan. The Town  
of Mount Desert is actively pursuing three new Town-owned solar projects across our  
municipality. Our solar projects are an important step toward our goal of freeing the  
municipality from its reliance on fossil fuels. These projects are economically feasible  
because of the tariff net energy billing rate structure. This bill proposes to  
dramatically change the tariff rate in a way that reduces the savings provided by our  
proposed projects and may prevent them from reaching fruition altogether.

LD 1465 does not seek to serve the best interests of Maine ratepayers, but rather the  
utilities who oversee them. The cost of Maine's net energy billing is a fraction of our  
electric bills, 1-2%, depending on territory. This contrasts with the 50-60% of the bill  
that goes to pay for the natural gas dominant supply in the regional market.

Finally, last session, this legislature passed LD 1986: An Act Relating to Net Energy  
Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems. This policy must take  
effect before changes around net energy billing proceed. If changes occur, as  
presented in LD 1465, they will be costly to our ratepayers and our climate. For these  
reasons, I urge this committee to vote against the passage of LD 1465: An Act to  
Amend the Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under Net Energy Billing.