

Peter LaFond  
Acadia Center  
LD 1465

Peter LaFond, Acadia Center, Senior Advocate and Maine Program Director  
P.O. Box 583  
Rockport, Me. 04856

Chair Lawrence and Members of the EUT Committee,

Acadia Center is a New England based advocacy organization that has offices in Rockport, Maine. Acadia Center's mission is to advance bold, effective clean energy solutions for a livable climate and a stronger, more equitable economy. Acadia Center opposes L.D. 1465 for the reasons articulated by several Mainers that have submitted their written testimony, that net energy billing, as modified by the Legislature, now serves to encourage and sustain efforts by Mainers that have employed solar and other forms of green energy in Maine. One letter writer wrote in opposition to L.D.1465 because it would imperil the future of their school solar array, which has saved their school district money, while also furthering the goals of the Maine Climate Council.

All across Maine schools and towns have, after years of effort, placed solar arrays that now help those towns to use green energy affordably. The high electricity rates Mainers have endured over the last several years have been caused by a utility overly dependent on natural gas, and subject to its price spikes, not by net energy billing. Moreover, net energy billing only compromises a small fraction of the electricity bills utilities have imposed on Mainers for years. This bill would not make sense any time, but especially not now, after reasonable adjustments have been made in net energy billing.