

Testimony of Gary Friedmann 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. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity, as Vice-Chair of the Bar Harbor Town Council, to oppose **LD 1465: An Act to Amend the Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under Net Energy Billing.**

For eight years our town has been working to build and own an array to power most of Bar Harbor's municipal electrical consumption. At our June 2022 Town Meeting voters overwhelmingly supported a \$4.3 million bond to construct and own a solar project on a Town-owned gravel pit. This array is economically feasible because our municipality will utilize tariff rate net energy billing with a twenty-year contract. This project replaces dirty and volatile energy from the standard offer, reduces transmission and distribution costs, and strengthens our local grid.

LD 1465 serves the bottom lines of our utilities, not Maine ratepayers. Net energy billing has a one to two percent impact on electric bills, compared to 50-60% for the fossil fuels, primarily volatile natural gas, which dominate supply in our region.

Bar Harbor citizens have demonstrated that climate action is critical to our future, and Maine's municipalities require strong net energy billing to pursue projects that reduce emissions. In 2021, Town Meeting amended our Land Use Ordinance to permit construction of large solar arrays, and Town Council has identified solar energy as integral to our town's Climate Action Plan. LD 1465 works directly against Bar Harbor's and Maine's climate goals.

Last session, this legislature passed **LD 1986: An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems.** This policy should be given time to take effect before additional legislation is considered around net energy billing. This particular bill, **LD 1465**, will be costly to our taxpayers and to our climate. I urge this committee to vote against **LD 1465.**