

Testimony of Michael W Dunn 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 Michael W Dunn and I am a citizen of Harrison, Maine. 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.

Last year LD 1986 was passed in order to get a full accounting of net energy billing. I don't understand why this bill, LD 1465, is even being considered without this accounting. Let me give you an example of a situation that might be disclosed with a full accounting of net energy billing.

In 2018 the operators of the Mystic Generating Station on the Everett/Boston, Massachusetts border announced that the station was no longer economical to operate and they were going to shut it down. At 1.4GW the Mystic Station has the largest generating capacity of any station in Massachusetts. While Mystic can burn coal, it relies heavily on LNG from Yemen for production.

ISO-NE made a case before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to keep the station open or risk power blackouts. FERC agreed, but imposed a subsidy, paid by ratepayers, to compensate the operators for keeping Mystic operating.

This situation was studied again by ISO-NE early last year. It was expected that they would argue before FERC in June 2023 to keep Mystic operating. They did not! They said that it could now be safely shut down! Why? The main reason cited was behind-the-meter solar. Yes, that's regular people with panels on their roofs who, collectively, are shedding grid load and providing the grid energy and stability needed to shut down a massive fossil fuel power station. At the time, Phil Bartlett, Chair of the Maine PUC said, "I think that the solar finding was just monumental because it's not something that anyone that I know of had ever considered or put forward as part of the solution..." The ISO-NE study focused on the impact of solar energy in the winter when solar energy production is lowest.

That trickle of rooftop solar installations, encouraged by current net metering policy, has permitted the shut down of one of the largest and dirtiest foreign-fuel consuming power plants in New England and will save ratepayers in ISO_NE territory from paying a subsidy to keep it open.

Are there other such win-win situations? We don't know. We won't know until a full accounting under last year's LD 1986 is complete. Net energy billing policy does need some adjusting. We won't know how much or even in what direction until the full accounting is complete.

In conclusion, I oppose LD 1945 and 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.

Thank you,
Michael W Dunn
Harrison, ME 04040