

Scott Vlaun  
Center for an Ecology-Based Economy  
LD 1465

9 January, 2024

Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee c/o Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

To: Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee

My name is Scott Vlaun. I am the executive director of the Center for an Ecology-Based Economy (CEBE) in Norway, Maine. I am writing today in strong opposition to LD 1465: An Act to Amend the Calculation of Tariff Rates and Billing Credits Under Net Energy Billing

For many years CEBE has been working in our under-resourced rural communities to develop models for affordable clean and renewable energy. NEB as it currently stands is the best tool we have to help local businesses control energy costs while contributing to Maine's renewable energy and GHG emissions goals. We are also working with our local school district towards beneficial electrification and to develop solar PV resources to control and stabilize runaway energy costs.

Last year our legislature passed LD 1986, which would help us develop a comprehensive accounting of Maine's current NEB policy. Not only was this a sensible approach, but it began to restore confidence in Maine's renewable energy sector. Passage of this bill would not only undermine that confidence, but it would threaten many projects already in the works for businesses and institutions that were relying on a stable NEB environment.

Until we have that comprehensive accounting called for in LD1986, passing further legislation affecting Maine's NEB policy is unwarranted and could be detrimental to Maine's energy and climate goals in unforeseen ways as a recent study by ISO NE regarding shutting down the Mystic River gas-powered generating station has pointed out.

While this bill doesn't directly affect residential rooftop solar, it does undermine the cost-effectiveness of solar power for our many local businesses and institutions, especially our school districts, and further destabilizes Maine's solar business environment.

Please vote "ought not to pass" on this ill-considered bill.

Thank you!

Scott Vlaun, Executive Director  
Center for an Ecology-Based Economy  
Norway, Maine