CLAYTON DAN MCKAY
Dixfield
LD 1963

Chair Lawrence, Chair Zeigler and Esteemed Members of the EUT Committee

For the following reasons, I oppose LD 1963 An Act Regarding the Future of Renewable Energy Transmission in Northern Maine

I have always remained hopeful that Maine could guard its option to restore its electric markets to the pre-restructuring era, a time when Maine-sited electricity generation could amply supply Maine's electricity consumption. In my opinion, the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program will eliminate this option. Maine will become the Renewable Development slave of Massachusetts. Our land and waters transformed to feed the beast of the south.

The evidence of the coming demise of Maine's option to enjoy energy sovereignty is dramatically displayed by events happening in Texas, Germany and Great Britain.

The Texas electricity market has dark memories about the killing blackout of 2021. Wikipedia explains " At least 246 people were killed directly or indirectly, with some estimates as high as 702 killed as a result of the crisis ".... "Despite investigations and legislation after the power crisis that killed hundreds, as of January 2022, little has changed in the electricity system and Texas remains at risk of major blackouts in another winter storm" The changes made to the Texas grid that preceded the disastrous blackout are results of an ambitious wind and solar project buildout.

Texas instate generation of wind and solar derived electricity accounts for 29% of its overall electric generation mix.

Maine's current wind and solar mix measured annually is 31.3% of the state's yearly consumption.

Germany has had desperate moments during grid operations and suffered economic shock while recording wind and solar project generation at 37.7% of the mix. Residential electricity prices in Germany are above 50 cents per kilowatt hour.

Again, Maine's current wind and solar mix measured annually is 31.3% of the state's yearly consumption.

Great Britain home electricity prices are just under 40 cents per kilowatt hour with a solar/wind mix at 37%

The NMREDP will add 1000-megawatt nameplate capacity wind generation and the Downeast Wind project currently under construction will add 126-megawatt nameplate capacity wind generation to the existing 1031-megawatt nameplate capacity wind generation. For an instate total of 2157-megawatt nameplate capacity.

Maine wind projects historically produce at 30% of its nameplate capacity, so 2157-megawatt nameplate capacity would produce 5,668,596 megawatts hours annually. EIA measures Maine's annual electricity consumption at 11.8 million megawatt-hours, (the Maine PUC estimates the Maine annual consumption as just under 12 million megawatt hours).

Central Maine Power and Versant track NEB and Tariff Rate solar generation in Maine. The combined estimated annual production from this program, including: 1. operational projects, 2. active non-operational projects and 3. pending projects is 3,108,900 megawatt hours.

The combination of instate wind, NEB and Tariff Rate distributed energy projects will produce 5,668,596 megawatt hours of wind plus 3,108,900 megawatt hours of distributed energy for a total of 8,777,496 megawatt hours or 74.4% of Maine's annual consumption! This isn't even counting grid scale solar!

Maine cannot sustain any hope of energy autonomy and return to pre-restructuring vertical integration of the electric market with this much intermittently produced electricity. Maine will absolutely be dependent on matching 74.4% of intermittent

energy with 74.4% backup generation. Where will this backup generation come from? What is the plan?
The ISO-NE Interconnection Queue which is the depot for requests to connect future projects is full of solar, wind, and battery storage projects. No backup generation projects. What is the plan? All other New England states except New Hampshire are accelerating their renewable portfolio standards to reach carbon zero with carbon zero generation. Where is the plan?

Do you know Maine natural gas-fired plants have ramped up production for the past two years? This increased production has increased the ratio of the RGGI emission cap to carbon allowances purchased from 28% of cap in 2019 to 77% of cap in 2022. Right at a time when the price of carbon allowances has hit all-time highs.

Do you know REC prices are going up as demand creeps up on supply and the anticipated offshore wind industry undergoes severe growing pains. Massachusetts RECs are at 97% of the cost of their alternative compliance payment. The REC market is approaching a bubble burst. Maine can no longer count on biomass and legacy hydro to keep up with Maines accelerated REC requirements.

Did you know most of Maine's grid scale wind projects contract with Massachusetts utilities for their power. or 64% of Maine sited solar projects sell their RECs in Massachusetts?

The competition in the carbon allowance trading (RGGI) and REC markets could soon place the New England states in a combative position. Serious electricity price increases are coming fast. How do you get to 80% renewables in a market that depends on 65% production from natural gas and nuclear?

Maine residents are fed up with the overwhelming onslaught of wind and solar projects flooding state lands to feed the energy beast to the south.

WHAT IS THE PLAN?