



Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

January 23, 2024

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 2099, *An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects*

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA), thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in support of LD 2099, *An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects*.

MREA was pleased to support the Governor's Energy Office's application for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 'Solar for All' program in their pursuit of federal funds to establish a program that addresses the barriers that low-income households face in accessing the benefits of solar and energy storage. Consistent with that support, MREA supports LD 2099.

'Solar for All' is competitive, so it is possible that Maine will not receive the full amount requested. This bill seeks to clarify that the Maine Public Utilities Commission can use their existing authority to approve ratepayer-funded contracts for new community solar and storage projects that use 'Solar for All' dollars. This statutory change would maximize Maine's ability to leverage federal funds, while delivering meaningful benefits to low-income households, increasing the reach and positive impact of the state's climate and clean energy policies.

We encourage the Committee to support LD 2099.

Sincerely,

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.
Executive Director

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