

Timothy Lyons
Brownfield
LD 32

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to share my concerns regarding LD 32. Repealing the laws governing net energy billing would eliminate a critical net metering program that has empowered thousands of Mainers to invest in solar energy and reduce their electricity bills. Data from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory indicates that net metering can reduce electricity costs by 10–20% for residential solar customers, thereby stimulating local economies and creating jobs in the renewable energy sector.

Net metering provides a financial return for every kilowatt-hour generated that is fed back into the grid, ensuring that those who invest in solar panels are rewarded for their contributions. I believe that the current system does not go far enough. In an ideal model, any unused energy credits would have actual cash value, with an option for quarterly payouts when a customer's generation exceeds their consumption. This enhancement would further incentivize Mainers to adopt solar technology and help reduce our state's reliance on nonrenewable energy sources.

While I support eliminating any solar tax that is added to all consumers' bills, I urge you to preserve—and even strengthen—the net energy billing framework. Removing this incentive not only penalizes Mainers who are taking proactive steps to lower their energy costs and environmental impact, but it also ignores the substantial, documented benefits of distributed solar energy. A robust net metering program contributes to a more resilient, decentralized energy grid that improves reliability and reduces long-term costs for all ratepayers.

I respectfully ask that you, as elected representatives, prioritize the interests of your constituents over the loud voices of lobbyists and large corporations. This decision will directly impact everyday Mainers—our families, neighbors, and local businesses. Please consider preserving and enhancing net energy billing so that our community can continue to benefit from cleaner energy and tangible economic savings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Timothy Lyons