

Ronald Lebel  
Auburn  
LD 450

Dear members of the committee:

I write in support of LD 450.

I am a former customer of a Maine solar power generator for our residences in both Auburn and Old Orchard Beach, doing so to support the cause of "clean energy".

However, I have terminated my services from that operator for a number of reasons and have now reconsidered whether it is in the best interests of Maine residents to continue to subsidize "alternative" sources of energy such as solar.

First, I am an environmentalist who is increasingly concerned about the vast quantity of Maine lands being devoted to solar arrays. Much of this land is prime agricultural acreage. As a State, we cannot continue to decry the loss of Maine farms and farmland, particularly dairy farms, while subsidizing largely out of state solar generators who are taking this land out of productive agricultural use.

Second, government should not be in the business of picking winners and losers among those in the private sector who generate electricity. Doing so distorts the true cost of generating electricity and places a finger on the scale in what should be an open and competitive market.

Third, most Mainers cannot afford to pay for electricity, an essential commodity, when its price is being artificially increased by government policy, as it is now.

Mainers have endured a period of extraordinary inflation. Government should do what it can to moderate, not increase, the cost of electricity in Maine.

We should regard our current policies of subsidizing solar and wind power as a failed experiment.

Thank you.