

Testimony of SARAH WHITE in Opposition of  
**LD 32: An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. I am Sarah White, resident of Tremont. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to oppose **LD 32: An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing**.

Providing more solar-based, renewable energy for the grid would be the most responsible thing that I could do as a resident of Tremont. I have had my home and rooftop analyzed; my roof has a perfectly situated south-facing roof slope that would provide electricity to the grid. I cannot do this because I cannot afford the upfront costs of buying the solar paneling and have them installed. So I now have the option of net energy billing, that is purchasing solar power through another solar source, without fronting the installation costs. THIS is what I plan on doing to add to the resilience of our electrical grid, out here on the quiet side of Mount Desert Island.

Though clearly in support of renewable energy, I am also realistic enough to know that no one energy source will provide all our needs in this difficult location; difficult meaning rural Maine having fewer people to financially support the large land region that these power lines cover. I have seen Versant recently upgrade/clean up and increase resilience on our remote roads out here, and appreciate their work very much. I know that as a result of their work, there would be some increases in our electrical bill. They went to lengths, to provide community meetings and explained this clearly to those of us who attended in the fall of 2024. I accept what must be done to keep our electricity up and running. But getting rid of net energy billing is NOT the way! Allowing solar energy sources throughout our state, is a wise and responsible choice that people must be allowed to make, as it varies our electricity sources, and is not expensive.

Not only is NEP providing me with equitable access to renewable energy, it decreases energy loss as electricity travels less distance through the lines. It supports peak demand by reducing peak demand grid pressure, and so reduces the cost of additional generation capacity as more people move to our beautiful state. This increases our own in-state electricity sources and decreases our dependence on fuel sources outside our state, such as from Canada which is undergoing tariff-raised pricing. Perhaps what means just as much to me, is that due to it being a non-air-polluting source, it helps to keep our air quality pristine, which is something that I sense the minute I cross into Maine from New Hampshire. The air smells sweeter and fresher, filled with pine tree and balsam fir essence; why? Because we have a clean and beautiful state, and we, the people of Maine, wish to keep it his way.

Please, for these reasons, do not take this option away. Allow retirees on a fixed income, such as me, to choose net energy billing. Please help Maine to be energy efficient, resilient, and a place where people from away, cannot wait to come and visit!!

Thank you.  
Sarah

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