

Friday February 20, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

We understand that there are four bills coming up for hearings that aim to end or decrease net metering for solar energy in Maine. We strenuously object to any bill submitted to end or cut back net metering.

We, our neighbors, our school, our town government, and tens of thousands of other citizens and businesses in Maine, and guests from other states, invested serious money in solar arrays to save money; help our communities, state, and nation; and earth's environment. Personally, for these reasons we used some of our retirement money to purchase a solar-electric system, two HVAC heaters, an HVAC water heater, and trade to an all-electric car. This has only been plausible because net metering addresses Maine's ability to harness surplus solar energy half the year, but little in the other half.

There are several benefits to Maine citizens from the present system:

- Direct longterm savings for individuals and businesses, small and large, and local governments.
- Many people are presently employed to construct and maintain solar arrays.
- Having tens of thousands of solar arrays around the state makes the state less dependent on electricity and fossil fuels imported from other states and countries.
- Most of the solar-electric systems are in areas of the state where for three months a year there is a significant increase in population and open businesses. Therefore there is a significant increase in the use of energy, and that's when the solar arrays produce most of their electricity. Without net metering, Maine's electric utility companies constantly will need to increase the capacity of the whole grid system, to supply those areas for three months of the year. That increases the cost of electricity to all users to pay for the upgrades and associated profit margins.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,

Kathleen and Warren Riess
Bristol, Maine