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Brunswick
LD 32

I am reaching out to the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, and state legislators of Maine regarding multiple bills that have been proposed that would eliminate Net Metering.

I am strongly against bill LD 32 and the other bills getting rid of or limiting net metering.

I am a resident of Brunswick Maine. I have been a Mainer all of my life, growing up in South Portland, getting my undergraduate degree at the University of Maine at Farmington, and my Doctorate of Physical Therapy at Husson University.

My wife and I had solar panels installed on our home back in April of 2022. The total cost of the system was about 32k before any federal rebates. We have been using net metering for about three years which has significantly lowered our electric and heating bills (we have heat pumps). We have actually had credits expire over the past two years and are producing more power than we are using on a yearly basis (I am not sure where my unused credits go but we have had about 3000kwh expire). We had to take out a home equity line of credit to pay for the panels. I believe our return on investment was supposed to be about 7 years. By removing net metering it would make it virtually impossible to break even on our purchase. We have three kids and removing NEB would be a massive strain on our family financially.

I also believe that when Net Metering was set up I signed paperwork with CMP agreeing to a 20 year contract.... This obviously played a factor in our decision on whether or not to make such a large purchase. It would be deeply disturbing and in my mind unfair to get rid of net metering for the thousands and thousands of Maine residents who are in the same situation as me, and made such a large purchase with the thought that this was agreed upon for 20 years.

I would hope at the very least if Net Metering was taken away they would do some sort of plan to help the people of Maine who made such a large purchase on clean energy. I believe other states that have changed their net metering policy have grandfathered existing customers in so they would see a return on investment (10 years etc).

Thank you for taking the time and hearing my thoughts,
Please reach out with any questions. I am more than happy to speak with anybody regarding my experience with solar panels/net metering.