

Maine Joint Legislature Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
Via electronic submission  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

February 22, 2025

To Committee Members,

I am writing in regards to LD 359 a bill related to Net Energy Billing (NEB), being presented to the committee on February 27, 2025. First, I will state that I am a subscriber to a community solar farm project, as a residential NEB kWh credit user, in the CMP territory. On February 1, 2025 I provided the committee with a letter regarding LD 32 and LD 257, which I am attaching with this letter for reference. As it relates to LD 359, if I understand the intent of the amendment to LD 359 filed on February 21, 2025 correctly, I believe it addresses one of my largest concerns. That concern being how at present a T&D utility appears to provide a credit to the NEB provider, which is then passed on to the NEB customer, of the kWh T&D utility delivery charge that the T&D utility would otherwise retain if the NEB customer weren't an NEB customer. If that is indeed the intent and result of this amendment to LD 359, then I am in full support of that.

There are a few additional revisions to this LD 359 amendment dated February 21, 2025 that I suggest, which are as follows:

1. **Sec. 7. 36 MRSA Section 655 sub-1, paragraph V**, is amended to read: V. For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2025, solar energy equipment that generates heat or electricity if all of the energy is used on the site where the property is located. On or before April 1<sup>st</sup> of the first property tax year for which a taxpayer claims an exemption under this paragraph, the taxpayer claiming the exemption shall file a report with the assessor. The report must identify the property for which the exemption is claimed and must be made on a form prescribed by the State Tax Assessor or a substitute form approved by the State Tax Assessor. The State Tax Assessor shall furnish copies of the form to each municipality in the State and make the forms available to taxpayers.
2. **Sec. 8. 36 MRSA Section 656 sub-1, paragraph L**, is amended to read: L. For property tax years beginning on or after April 1, 2025, solar energy equipment that generates heat or electricity if all of the energy is used on the site where the property is located. On or before April 1<sup>st</sup> of the first property tax year for which a taxpayer claims an exemption under this paragraph, the taxpayer claiming the exemption shall file a report with the assessor. The report must identify the property for which the exemption is claimed and must be made on a form prescribed by the State Tax Assessor or a substitute form approved by the State Tax Assessor. The State Tax Assessor shall furnish copies of the form to each municipality in the State and make the forms available to taxpayers.
3. **Sec. 9. 36 MRSA Section 1760, sub-80** is repealed.
4. **Sec 10. 35-A MRSA Section 3214 sub-2, paragraph D**, is enacted to read: Receive funds collected by the Sales and Use Tax on the sale or delivery of kilowatt hour of electricity to net energy billing customers as defined by the commission for which no money is paid to the electricity provider or to the transmission and distribution utility.

I hope that this provides a prospective from someone who is a participant in the NEB kWh credit program, and as mentioned in my earlier letter, feels that its current design is frankly, broken. I believe the amended LD 359, dated February 21, 2025, and my further suggestions, will result in: a) the NEB provider earning revenue on the electricity that it generates more similar to a competitive energy provider design, b) the T&D utility earning revenue on the electricity that they distribute similar to a Standard Offer Service Rate program design, c) host communities earning revenue from the associated property taxes of the NEB generation provider, d) allow the State to earn a sales tax on the NEB electricity generation, which can then be used to help fund the Needs-based low-income electricity assistance program and e) all while helping to avoid NEB related stranded costs for those ratepayers who are not participating in the NEB program. And yes, as mentioned in my prior letter, I realize that I will likely pay more for my electricity, if I continue to participate in the NEB program, and I am OK with that if it makes things fairer for other ratepayers who are not participating in the NEB program.

Sincerely,

Steven Ingalls

Stetson, ME

Steven Ingalls  
Stetson  
LD 359

Please see attached letter.