

Senator Mark Lawrence & Representative Melanie Sachs
Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology
Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

I am writing in opposition to LD 32 and LD 257, which would eliminate our state's longstanding practice of net metering—providing fair compensation to the thousands of Mainers like me who self-generate our own energy to power our homes.

As owners of a share in one of ReVision Energy's Community Solar Farms, my husband and I participate in Net Energy Billing's kilowatt hour credit program, alongside 77,000 other Mainers. We find it deeply concerning that lawmakers are proposing to harm the investments that these Mainers have made in going solar, working to electrify their homes, or invest in the clean energy transition to utilize Maine-made energy.

Even more, we find it frustrating that solar is continually blamed for rising electric bills, when the reality is that our region's reliance on natural gas is driving energy cost increases. Solar energy programs make up only 5% of the average residential electric bill, while in 2023, natural gas accounted for 60%. The other contributing factor in rising rates is the cost of storm related damages to grid infrastructure. Blaming solar, and the investments my family has made that directly benefit the grid for increasing costs, is misleading. In fact, those of us with oversized solar systems are actually helping to lower the cost of electricity for our neighbors, because, according to the PUC, our expired kWh credits are monetized by our utility and used to fund the Low-Income Assistance Program.

Clean energy is lowering the overall price of electricity—creating net benefits for all Mainers, and contributing to a reduction of green house gases that are fueling the climate related storms that have become more frequent and more costly. Solar isn't the problem—fossil fuel volatility and climate chaos are the real problems.

As one of the thousands of residential solar customers in our state, please oppose LD 32 and LD 257.

Sincerely,

Heather Wyman

Appleton