

Patrick Burnett
WEST PARIS
LD 32

Testimony of Patrick Burnett in Opposition of
LD 32: An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing and LD 257: An
Act to Eliminate the Practice of Net Energy Billing

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and honorable members of the Energy,
Utilities, and Technology Committee. I am Patrick Burnett, RESIDENT OF West
Paris. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to oppose LD 32 and LD
257.

As a first-time home buyer, I am in staunch opposition to this bill. Currently, my
electric bill exceeds \$600 per month in the winter. I am in the process of adding solar
panels to my house to bring down my electric bill. If net metering is repealed, this
will negatively affect my budget for paying off a solar system. Repealing net metering
could stop me from making the investment. This affects not only me, but the local
business I will need to contract to do this work.

I am considering solar not only because of monthly costs, but also because of
regularly losing power to my home. I live in an area with heavy tree cover, consistent
snow in the winter, and the single electric monopoly responsible for “maintenance” of
a huge swath of the state. When my power goes out for the 7th time in the last 12
months, I might not have a solar system that can power my home.

In a bigger picture, I will not be contributing to Maine’s energy independence. I will
be beholden to the whims of various corporations that have clearly demonstrated that
they do not care about Mainers. Maine has once again led the way for the country in
energy independence. Please do not repeal net metering. It will be disastrous for
Maine homeowners, local businesses, Maine’s economy, and it will contribute to an
even more unreliable and expensive electric grid for Mainers.