Testimony of Noah Potts 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,

My name is Noah Potts, and I am a resident of Norway, Maine. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to oppose LD 32 and LD 257, which would repeal and eliminate the practice of net energy billing in our state.

While I do not currently participate in net energy billing, I am strongly considering installing solar panels at my home in the future. The ability to generate and store my own renewable energy, while also having the option to contribute excess energy back to the grid, is an important factor in making that investment financially viable. If these laws are repealed, I fear that not only would my own plans be jeopardized, but so too would the incentives for countless other Maine residents and businesses considering solar energy.

Maine's current net energy billing policies provide a pathway for individuals and small businesses to reduce their energy costs, invest in local renewable energy, and contribute to the resilience of our electric grid. By enabling more distributed energy generation, we lessen our dependence on fossil fuels, strengthen grid reliability, and reduce strain during peak demand. If we eliminate net energy billing, we would be discouraging Mainers from pursuing clean energy solutions at a time when we should be expanding them.

Beyond the financial impact on individual homeowners, repealing net energy billing would send a broader message that Maine is retreating from its commitment to a more resilient and sustainable energy future. As we face increasingly extreme weather events and grid disruptions, we should be incentivizing more local generation, not less.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote **against** LD 32 and LD 257. Maintaining and improving net energy billing is critical for Maine's energy independence, grid reliability, and long-term sustainability. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Noah Potts Resident of Norway, Maine Noah Potts Norway LD 32

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