

Greg Kimber
Temple
LD 32

I am writing to testify in opposition to LD 32 - An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing. But I am opposed to the three other anti-net metering bills being put forward today as well (LD 257, LD 359, LD 450).

I expect and hope others will touch on the environmental benefits net metering offers as well as its benefits to the grid. But I want to speak from a self-interested economic standpoint. I've had the privilege of serving on the RSU 9 school board for the last three years. Shortly before my getting on the board, the school district completed the process of joining a new solar farm in Livermore. It's the first solar project in Maine to provide most of the energy it produces to public schools here in the state. RSU 9 receives a slight majority of the energy, just over 51%. The bulk of the remainder goes to RSU 73. The operation start date was in December of 2021. And it's been going strong for the last three plus years. It probably goes without saying, but the district has been a net metering customer. I'm not sure how this arrangement would be feasible without net metering.

I want to make it clear before I go any further that I am not speaking on behalf of the RSU 9 school board or the district, but rather simply as a taxpayer and as a community member who has had the opportunity to learn a little bit about the district's solar program in our board meetings. I can't say I've wrapped my head around the complexities of how the billing system works. But I have been able to understand the bottom line. At an update presented during a recent committee meeting we learned that for the school year 2023/24, the district saved \$132,928 compared to what it would have spent going 100% with CMP. These are significant savings for the district. Which is good news for the taxpayers in our towns. Net metering has made that possible. Cancelling net metering would deprive us of those savings and would throw the district's energy contracting picture into disarray. I ask that you oppose attempts to weaken or do away with net metering. Thank you.