

Charlie Duprey
The Wishcamper Companies, Inc. (“TWC”)
February 6, 2025

Testimony of Charlie Duprey on behalf of TWC in opposition of LD 32 and LD 257

Senator Lawrence,
Representative Sachs,
Members of the EUT Committee,

My name is Charlie Duprey, and I am the Vice President of Solar Development for The Wishcamper Companies, Inc. (“TWC”). TWC is a Maine-based developer and owner of affordable housing and renewable energy. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to LD 32 and LD 257.

My testimony today is to inform you of the devastating impact LD 32 and LD 257 would have on our Maine-based business and those we serve.

TWC owns and operates seven solar arrays throughout the state that participate in NEB. Through this program, we provide our offtakers with significant electricity savings. Our offtakers include schools, universities, municipalities, and hospitals. These deep-rooted Maine institutions use the savings from our solar arrays to expand offerings, improve services, strengthen their workforce, and enhance fiscal security. By eliminating NEB, our Maine schools, universities, municipalities and hospitals will be worse off as they will lose the 20+ years of savings they have been planning on and that our arrays will deliver.

TWC has made significant investments in the state of Maine to construct and operate its solar arrays. If NEB were eliminated, TWC would default on the sizeable loans we have with Maine-based lenders. We would also default on our financial obligations to our Maine investors. The commitments we made were based on the enacted NEB rules, which have already been amended through LD 634 in 2022 and, more recently, LD 1986.

Lastly, I’d like to remind the committee that a significant docket is currently under review at the Public Utilities Commission. Docket 2024-00149 will provide valuable insights into the benefits of NEB. I urge the committee to consider the findings from this docket before making any further changes to the NEB program. In addition to this, recent changes to the program provided for a comprehensive study to analysis the costs and benefits associated with NEB. This report showed that the benefit to ratepayers outweighs the cost of the program.

TWC opposes these bills, and we urge you to vote **Ought Not to Pass**.