

Meghan Vigeant
Portland
LD 257

I've been a Maine resident and voter since 2009, and over the years, I've had the privilege of living in different parts of the state—from Downeast on Swan's Island to central Maine, midcoast Maine, and now Portland. No matter where I've lived, one thing has always been clear: Mainers value community, sustainability, and fairness. That's why I'm so concerned about LD 32 and LD 257.

I'm asking you to oppose these bills because they would hurt the Net Energy Billing (NEB) program, which has been a huge win for Mainers who want to save money on energy and support renewable power.

NEB helps people, businesses, and communities afford solar energy by letting them earn credits when they send extra power back to the grid. This has made it possible for more people—especially those who can't put solar panels on their own roofs—to benefit from clean energy. Plus, last year's report from the Maine Public Utilities Commission showed that NEB actually saved Mainers nearly \$30 million more than it cost. That's a big deal!

The utility companies pushing these bills want people to believe that NEB is making electricity more expensive, but that's just not true. Rates are rising because our grid is outdated and needs upgrades, not because of solar energy. In fact, NEB helps by modernizing our energy system and keeping costs down in the long run.

If LD 32 and LD 257 pass, the big utilities would get to pull the plug on this successful program, leaving Mainers with fewer choices and higher costs. That's not fair to the thousands of residents, schools, and businesses that have already invested in solar based on the state's promise that their benefits would be protected.

I trust you care about keeping Maine on a path toward clean, affordable energy, and I know you want to do what's best for your constituents. Please stand with us and oppose these bills. Thanks for your time—I really appreciate all the work you do for our state!

Sincerely,
Meghan Vigeant