

February 27, 2025

Via Electronic Mail

Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
c/o Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: Public Hearing, LDs 32, 257, 450, and 515

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Committee,

The Alliance for Climate Transition ("ACT") appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology ("the Committee") in opposition to LDs 32, 257, 450 and 515.

ACT leads the just, equitable, and rapid transition to a clean energy future and a diverse climate economy. ACT is the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. ACT members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including clean transportation, energy efficiency, wind, solar, energy storage, microgrids, fuel cells, and advanced and "smart" technologies.

ACT is dedicated to growing the clean energy economy in Maine and across the region, in pursuit of our mission to create a world-class and equitable clean energy hub in the Northeast. Our 300+ members include companies based in Maine, doing business, or hoping to make future investments in the state.

ACT strongly opposes LDs 32, 257, 450 and 515, which would be detrimental to Maine's energy transition and result in higher energy prices. They would severely diminish the viability of solar energy systems across Maine, effectively nullifying significant investments made by homeowners, residents, and businesses—totaling hundreds of millions of dollars. Additionally, they would disrupt existing contracts that municipalities, school districts, and businesses have depended on, creating financial and operational uncertainty. Beyond the immediate economic impact, the bills would also damage Maine's reputation as a stable and trustworthy place to invest in clean energy, potentially discouraging future development and innovation in the state.

By effectively wiping net energy billing ("NEB") from Maine statute, LDs 32, 257 and 450 propose to erase the mechanism for delivering energy produced by solar energy systems to the grid. This includes almost all residential and business rooftop solar energy systems, community solar projects, and projects designed for Maine businesses. LD 515, while different in approach,

would have similarly damaging effects.

Over 110,000 Maine residents and businesses are NEB customers, including homeowners, renters, municipalities, hospitals, non-profits, and small businesses—all of which see direct savings on their electricity bills. Furthermore, **over 60 Maine public schools and school districts** take part in NEB. These customers rely on the state's NEB programs to provide energy for their homes, businesses, and schools and help advance Maine's clean energy goals. LD 32 and 257 would not only harm residents and businesses, but also impede the state's ability to meet its 100% clean energy targets by 2050.

Additionally, when these projects are built, they also build grid upgrades to shared poles, wires, and substations that are critical to a resilient electrical grid. Without NEB, investments in modernizing energy infrastructure could decline, resulting in inefficiencies and increased long-term operational costs. These investments support the local and distributed generation of renewable energy, easing peak demand on the grid and ultimately reducing electricity costs for all ratepayers by limiting reliance on peaker plants and costly transmission upgrades. An [independent study](#) commissioned by the Maine Public Utilities Commission shows every \$1 invested in NEB generates \$1.23 in benefits, providing nearly \$30 million more in benefits than costs.

All Maine residents ultimately benefit from NEB and smaller-scale solar and other renewable energy generators. Solar energy and other renewable energy sources are produced in the state, creating jobs and allowing Maine to rely less on global, volatile fossil fuel markets and continue to build a more resilient, independent energy system.

We urge the Committee to **vote "Out Not to Pass" on LDs 32, 257, 450 and 515 and ensure all Maine residents can benefit from NEB**. Thank you for your consideration and continued commitment to ensuring Maine has reliable, affordable, and sustainable sources of energy.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tim Snyder

Tim Snyder
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