

February 6, 2025

Senator Mark Lawrence & Representative Melanie Sachs  
Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology  
Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

We are present today to speak in opposition to LD 32 and LD 257. We are solar customers in Biddeford and are deeply concerned about what these bills would do to the solar arrays that homeowners like us have installed across the state.

We are a family of six from Biddeford, where we work at the University of New England and maintain an active role in our church. With our deep Maine roots, we pride ourselves on playing an active role in and taking care of our community. This means serving as a leader in taking tangible steps to transition to clean energy, and with the benefits we've personally seen, encouraging our neighbors to take these tangible steps, too.

We installed solar a 15.2kW solar system and three heat pumps in our home in 2023. We made this choice because we care deeply about the state of the environment and the future our four children will grow up in, but we also had to make the numbers work. Making this investment was no small feat; after spending a significant amount of time researching the annual savings, we refinanced our home to make it a reality. We took these major steps towards energy independence to do our part in our state's clean energy transition. This included making real investments to electrify our home and power it with clean electricity that we generate. Fortunately, this investment we've made has real economic and environmental benefits for all Mainers.

As our country moves towards electrification and our energy demand is expected to double by 2050, we need to be growing sources of new capacity. Local renewable capacity gives us energy security, lower emissions, and offsets the costs of expanding our aging transmission and distribution grid, which would be necessary to handle such a big increase in demand.

For these reasons, we are very concerned that lawmakers are considering doing away with our state's longstanding program to allow residential customers to be fairly compensated for the energy we produce which delivers real benefits to ratepayers and the grid alike. In fact, an April 2024 study from the Public Utilities Commission shows that for behind the meter systems in the kilowatt hour credit program, like ours, the total program costs in 2023 were \$10M, and the benefits were nearly \$28M. That's exactly why we're here today—because we not only believe, but we know, we are doing the right thing. For that reason, we ask you to please oppose LD 32 and LD 257. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michelle and Lee Cote  
Biddeford