



February 27, 2025

Honorable Mark Lawrence, Senate Chair  
Honorable Melanie Sachs House Chair  
Joint Legislative Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**Re: *Testimony in Opposition LD 32 An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing, LD 257 An Act to Eliminate the Practice of Net Energy Billing, LD 450 An Act to Lower Electricity Costs by Repealing the Laws Governing Net Energy Billing, and LD 515 An Act to Reverse Recent Changes Made to the Law Governing Net Energy Billing and Distributed Generation***

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

My name is Roger Crouse, and I serve as the General Manager for Kennebec Water District (KWD) in Waterville. KWD serves drinking water to more than 22,000 people in the greater Waterville area including the communities of Waterville, Winslow, Fairfield, Benton, and Vassalboro.

I am present today to speak in opposition to LDs 32, 257, 450, and 515 which would eliminate the opportunity to net meter and receive fair compensation for the self-generation of energy. This legislation would have a negative impact not only on investments KWD has already made, but also on investments made by other water districts and municipalities around the state who rely on our state's Net Energy Billing program.

KWD is currently pursuing and has agreements in place to build a 680 kW DC solar array on the site of our water treatment facility in Vassalboro (on land we own). This project, which we anticipate will be complete in 2026, will directly offset approximately \$1.5 million in electricity cost over the next 20 years. This cost reduction will have a direct impact on our ratepayers. We are proud to be investing in local energy, decreasing our dependency on global markets, and generating clean energy that delivers significant benefits.

Should LDs 32, 257, 450, and/or 515 become law, our investments in time and effort to date would be lost and we would lose the opportunity to offset a significant portion of our electricity costs in the future. We urge this Committee to reject this legislation as it will have a profound negative financial impact on our utility as well as utilities and municipalities across the state who have made investments in solar energy. Thank you for your time.

Yours for safe drinking water,

Roger Crouse, P.E.  
General Manager