

Nexamp Testimony – LD 32, LD 257, LD 450, LD 515
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
Jake Springer
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Thank you, Chair Lawrence, Chair Sachs, and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee for the opportunity to submit testimony for this hearing.

I am testifying today in opposition to:

- **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**
- **LD 515, An Act to Reverse Recent Changes Made to the Law Governing Net Energy Billing and Distributed Generation**

Nexamp is a vertically integrated clean energy company with nearly two decades of experience in this region developing, constructing, operating and maintaining solar and energy storage projects. We are the long-term owners for all our projects, managing the assets through their whole lifecycle until decommissioning, and we work directly with the customers participating in our projects providing them a guaranteed discount on the credits they receive.

Nexamp has some 40 projects in Maine and through the Net Energy Billing (NEB) program we serve almost 20,000 customers in the state. In doing so we have invested hundreds of millions of dollars building these projects and upgrading the distribution grid infrastructure that supports the state. We are proud of what we have been able to build in Maine and to serve the Mainers who have chosen to participate in these projects. Our customers are Maine businesses of all sizes—including hospitals, breweries and ski areas—as well as municipalities and school districts. But the vast majority are residential customers who are saving on average \$232 each year by participating in one of our projects.

These bills under consideration would wipe NEB from the books, ignoring the reality of the hundreds of millions of dollars of investment made in the state through NEB, and ignoring the impact on customers who have installed systems at their homes and businesses or who are participating in community solar. This approach would simply pretend none of this ever happened. This is not reasonable or responsible policymaking.

This approach also fails to address the reasons the Legislature established NEB in the first place—as a means of generating investment in clean energy resources and providing Mainers access to those resources. The NEB program is unique in that the investment stays local and the power stays local. The NEB program was designed for a purpose and given the scale of investment the state has seen over the last few years, it delivered.



It is important to note that the program as it exists today was established by the Legislature, and that companies who have developed projects, and customers who have participated, did so based on the law and the program as it was designed. The NEB program has been modified by the Legislature on more than a few occasions already, but any changes the Legislature contemplates should not be designed to penalize those who in good faith operated under the framework that the Legislature established and encouraged.

Despite tweaks to NEB on several occasions already by this Legislature, there is clearly an interest and a recognition of the need for improvements to NEB. Nexamp is ready and willing to discuss improvements to the existing NEB program so it can deliver for all Maine consumers and to chart a path forward for future distributed solar and energy storage to achieve the state's goals. But we cannot support efforts that unwind the progress made to date and that undermine existing investments. These bills are focused on the past when we should be looking forward.

We strongly urge you to oppose LD 32, LD 257, LD 450 and LD 515.

Respectfully,

Jake Springer
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Nexamp