



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

February 26, 2025

**RE: LD 359: An Act to Prohibit Net Energy Billing by Certain Customers**

Dear Chair Lawrence, Chair Sachs, and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee:

My name is Ania Wright and I am Maine Audubon's Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation nonprofit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition to LD 359, *An Act to Prohibit Net Energy Billing by Certain Customers*.

Maine Audubon is a strong supporter of renewable energy development, including solar. Rapid deployment of new renewable energy resources is critical to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and avoiding the worst impacts of climate change—the leading threat to Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat, the conservation of which is central to Maine Audubon's mission. At the same time, new renewable energy development, like any new development, if not thoughtfully sited, can displace wildlife habitat and negatively impact natural resources, including agricultural resources. Currently, there is a robust interest in solar development in Maine – and the Net Energy Billing (NEB) program is key to maintaining the clean energy momentum that our wildlife and human communities depend on.

LD 359 proposes cuts to the NEB program which will put undue burden on the finances of individual households, businesses, school districts, and non-profit organizations. By limiting compensation to supply only for the kwh and tariff rate programs, people and businesses with solar will have to pay the full transmission and distribution price to deliver their excess electricity to the grid.

We look forward to continuing to work with this committee throughout the session to help develop true solutions to the high electricity costs facing Maine communities and to continue to make our climate and clean energy goals feasible. The proposed changes to the Net Energy Billing in LD 359 would be detrimental to efforts to strengthen our grid, improve air quality, and reduce fossil fuel consumption – in addition to punishing early adopters of solar and failing to address the numerous issues that Maine ratepayers face. **We urge you to vote “ought not to pass” on LD 359.** Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ania Wright  
Policy Advocate