

Ruth Rogers
Bangor
LD 32

Testimony before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology on LD 32, "An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing"

Senator Mark Lawrence, Representative Melanie Sachs and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ruth Rogers and I am a resident of Bangor. I am testifying in support of LD 32.

Maine's Net Energy Billing program needs to be reformed. Solar taxes are harmful to Maine's employers. Countless businesses have had to close, lay off employees or cut hiring because their utility bills have doubled to fund massive solar fields built by out-of-state investors. One Maine business, potato producer McCrum in Washburn, shared his recent Versant power bill that includes a new \$57,516.60 monthly charge to cover the cost of solar subsidies, DOUBLING his power bill.

It isn't just businesses that are hit hard by this solar tax. Households that don't have the funds to invest in solar themselves end up footing the bill. It's not fair.

You are likely aware that, when snow-covered, solar panels/fields do not generate electricity. Solar has very little year-round capacity in Maine due to inclement weather and a short summer season. I encourage you to support LD 32 and make needed changes that will take the burden off our state's businesses and citizens, allowing them to survive and thrive.

Thank you for reading my testimony.