

Sheila Corbett  
Castine  
LD 32

Net Energy Billing Hearing Testimony  
Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee  
2025 February 27th, 9:00 AM, Cross Building, Room 211

Testimony of Sheila Corbett, Castine

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and other members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, I'm Sheila Corbett of Castine. Thank you for providing this opportunity to speak in OPPOSITION of the following bills:

LD 32 An Act to Repeal the Laws of 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 Distribution Billing

These bills, if passed, would repeal effective laws and incentives surrounding Net Energy Billing (NEB), and would effectively result in a homeowner's inability to recover the cost of their solar panel investment.

In 2022, inspired by Maine's Climate panels, my husband and I paid over \$25,000 to purchase and install 15 solar panels on the roof of our home. When the panels became operational in October 2022 we signed a 20-year Net Energy Billing agreement with CMP.

The Net Energy Billing program provides a less known benefit by using our expired kWh credits to provide electricity for low income folks. Net Energy Billing works, it allowed my husband and I to join Maine's Won't Wait climate mitigation efforts.

We are neither okay with Maine walking away from its responsibility to abate this human made existential crisis, nor are we okay with eliminating our NEB contract that has over 17 years remaining.

In 2023 the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change introduced a new deadline that the world must meet to avoid the most catastrophic climate impacts. To limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the panel found that global greenhouse gas emissions must decline by 60% by 2035 as compared with 2019 levels (Climatewire, March 20). Maine's goal of 45% is notably less ambitious than the UN's panel recommendations. If we choose to be our best selves for current and future generations, we would step up our Net Zero goals to match the UN panel guidelines.

I sincerely appreciate Maine's legislative body that brought NEB to Maine, and I strongly urge that the four bills, cited above, not be passed, and that Maine continue with its climate initiatives, including Net Energy Billing.

I sincerely hope the Maine legislature will work to eliminate disinformation within its ranks. It's tearing us apart across the nation and now in Maine — and it is rife in this room today.