

James Cleary  
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LD 342

I support LD 342 “An Act to Include Nuclear Power in the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard” and LD 343 “An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Seek Informational Bids Regarding Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in the State.”

By what I understand, LD 342 includes a source of electrical generation relying on a nuclear power plant constructed after January 1, 2025 in the definition of a renewable capacity resource and a renewable resource. Renewable capacity resources are Class I resources for the purposes of the portfolio supply source requirements applicable to competitive electricity providers in the State.

Also, LD 343 requires the Public Utilities Commission to annually issue a request for informational bids for the establishment in the State of a small modular nuclear reactor, which is a nuclear reactor that has a rated generating capacity of no more than 350 megawatts, is capable of being constructed and operated at a single site on its own or in combination with one or more nuclear reactors and is required to be licensed by the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

We as electricity ratepayers throughout the state are paying several hundred dollars more per year for our electricity, to subsidize solar or otherwise “green” energy initiatives. As I see it, we are subsidizing the Chinese solar panel industry, and out-of-state solar panel installation companies, with little to no benefit to us as ratepayers.

With the extremely high cost of our electricity supply, and with Central Maine Power periodically increasing our electricity delivery rate, our state should be working tirelessly to reduce our electricity costs, not watch them continuously go up. I believe nuclear electricity generation is much more efficient and affordable than either solar or wind.

Let’s drive those electricity costs down, not up!

Again, I support LD 342 and 342, and they “ought to pass.”