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LD 451

Hello, my name is Mabon Young, and thank you for this opportunity to testify against LD 451.

PFAS and PFOAS contamination is undoubtedly a pressing and emerging concern, and Maine is leading the way in the management and cleanup of these substances. However, if we are to be the leaders on this issue, we need to take care to lead in the right direction. Given that the bill would potentially strip solar and wind developments of their ability to participate in net energy billing or to be included in renewable energy portfolios, it is rather clear that this bill is firmly on the side of acting as an obstacle to critical solar and wind developments, rather than earnestly progressing Maine's leadership.

The renewable energy exclusion is especially concerning to me, especially paired with the clause that the development operator is required to bear the costs of remediating any PFAS contamination. It is easy to imagine a scenario where a solar development is found to have introduced trace amounts of PFAS, and consequently loses the renewable energy grants that make covering the up-front costs of solar arrays possible, rendering the developers unable to either maintain the development or fund the remediation of the contamination.

If Maine wants to lead the country in tackling PFAS contamination, I believe that our efforts would be much better spent addressing the issue at the source, rather than chasing symptoms, and our solutions to PFAS should not hamstring progress on other critical issues. I urge you to vote against LD 451, and thank you for your consideration.