



STATE OF MAINE
Energy, Utilities, & Technology Committee

LD 515 - An Act to Reverse Recent Changes) Public Hearing
Made to the Law Governing Net Energy Billing) SolarLogix, LLC Public Testimony
and Distributed Generation) 27 Feb 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished committee members:

My name is Tyler Eads, and I represent SolarLogix, a solar energy company based in Belfast, Maine, composed of 58 Mainers primarily focused on rooftop Level 1 and 2 NEB projects.

SolarLogix strongly opposes and is against all proposed legislative changes that seek to alter, reduce, or eliminate Maine's current Net Energy Billing (NEB) program.

The NEB program is a critical driver of growth for businesses like SolarLogix, supporting the energy sector and creating high-quality jobs. It has facilitated significant expansion in the labor market, providing opportunities for licensed electricians and skilled tradespeople. For example, SolarLogix hired more than 25 employees last year alone. Without the NEB program, these well-paying jobs, all of which include full benefits, would be at risk.

Additionally, the rising electricity costs that ratepayers are currently facing are largely due to the increasing volatility and expenses associated with natural gas, as well as the substantial costs of storm recovery. Over the past five years, Maine has seen a surge in storm-related expenses, driven by the need to bring in out-of-state utility crews at a premium.

Tariff rate projects are not synonymous with offsite solar. Due to the inconsistency and low threshold of rate class structure, i.e. small general service versus medium service, often we install rooftop solar under the tariff rate NEB program for small Maine businesses in pursuit of financial credits to offset kilowatt billed customers.

This issue has brought me to Lincoln, down east, central Maine, and many other customers who went over their peak demand by 0.2 kW and saw their utility bills DOUBLE in cost. While there are technical solutions like adding a new service and splitting loads based on a load analysis, there are more common sense, cost beneficial, and longer lasting solutions that can be achieved through policy and rate class structure.

The NEB program remains one of the few policies actively working to lower overall electricity load and costs for all Maine ratepayers, regardless of whether they choose to invest in solar energy. We should be discussing expanding NEB and reducing costs for ALL ratepayers, not cutting it.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak.

Tyler G. Eads

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Please see the attached testimony given at the public hearing by SolarLogix for the written record.