



MAINE MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION **SINCE 1936**

60 Community Drive | Augusta, ME 04330-9486

1-800-452-8786 (in state) | (t) 207-623-8428

(f) 207-624-0129

Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association (MMA)

In Support of

*LD 819, An Act Concerning the Status of Battery Storage Systems
with Regard to the Business Equipment Tax Exemption*

March 12, 2025

Senator Grohoski, Representative Cloutier and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, my name is Amanda Campbell, and I am submitting testimony in support of LD 819 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC).

This session, the LPC proactively established a platform of bills intended to bolster and support the property taxpayers of Maine. Through initiatives across the legislative board, they are committed to protecting the interests of their residents and to reducing the burden of property taxes.

LD 819 supports these municipal priorities by providing that battery storage systems with a capacity of 2MW or more are ineligible for the Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) program. Support for this measure would be even greater if all battery storage systems were considered ineligible.

Aside from the perennial argument that exemption programs erode the municipal revenue stream, municipal officials have serious concerns about the potential costs associated with risks posed by battery storage facilities. Fire department personnel will require additional training and be faced with hazardous and dangerous situations should an emergency arise in relation to these facilities. In an atmosphere of significantly reduced recruitment and retention of municipal emergency personnel, these emergency situations could be catastrophic. Removing these systems from the BETE program would allow communities where these systems exist to redirect those taxpayer dollars to emergency services training, recruitment and retention.

Additionally, should this bill pass, and the committee should wish for it to take effect with the upcoming property tax year, a statement clarifying that, such as "as of April 1, 2025," would be important.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you and share the municipal perspective on this important topic. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the MMA Advocacy team with any questions related to municipal operations.