



# SIERRA CLUB

## MAINE CHAPTER

PO Box 3760  
Portland, ME 04104  
Phone: (207) 761-5616  
[www.sierraclub.org/maine](http://www.sierraclub.org/maine)

To: Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
From: Nathan Davis, Ph.D., Sierra Club Maine  
Date: March 12, 2025  
Re: **Testimony in Opposition to L.D. 830: An Act to Protect Maine's Scenic Beauty by  
Requiring Solar Panel Fields to Be Hidden from View**

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Senator Tepler, Representative Duodera, and members of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Nathan Davis, and I write on behalf of Sierra Club Maine, representing over 22,000 supporters and members statewide. Founded in 1892, Sierra Club is one of our nation's oldest and largest environmental organizations. We work diligently to amplify the power of our 3.8 million members nationwide as we work towards combating climate change and promoting a just and sustainable economy.

A grave threat menaces Maine's scenic beauty. Sterile, gray expanses proliferate, purging life and inhibiting economic production. Where once stood proud forests now lies only desolation.

I refer, of course, to the ashen ubiquity of asphalt parking lots, which are 2.7 times as ugly as solar panels. The property owners of Maine deserve immediate protection from this scourge of modern industrial civilization.

In the absence of an amendment to include parking lots in this legislation, we urge you to vote "ought not to pass", since it appears to be driven by grievance against renewable energy rather than a sober assessment of costs and benefits.

Sincerely,  
Nathan Davis, Ph.D.  
Sierra Club Maine  
Legislative Team member