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LD 830

I am a resident of Fryeburg, and I am a land use and environmental attorney speaking in support of LD 830 with some suggested modifications. First, I am fully supportive of alternative energy generation in our state including solar. Second, I have worked on behalf of developers of solar projects and on behalf of opponents of certain energy related projects, notably the massive NECE transmission corridor. In my work, reviewing the environmental and scenic impact of projects has always been a critical element. And through that work, but also as a resident of Fryeburg, I have seen first-hand how the lack of municipal regulatory provisions can create an eye-sore in a community. LD 830 will help fix that problem. Third, while supportive of LD 830, I think it would be improved and strengthened by adding two additional elements: 1) that the requirement of the sufficiency of screening “as determined by the department” should be amended to include “in consultation with the local land use authority.” And 2) that a retroactive provision be added that provides funding for Towns like Fryeburg that have been negatively impacted by developments without adequate screening. Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.