

Testimony of Ashley Luszczki
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
In Opposition to L.D. 801, An Act to Prevent Consumer-generated Electricity from Being
Used by Anyone Other than That Consumer
March 26, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Ashley Luszczki. I am here on behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, representing a network of 5,000+ small to large businesses located across the state. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to L.D. 801, An Act to Prevent Consumer-generated Electricity from Being Used by Anyone Other than That Consumer.

While we recognize the intent of this legislation, the Chamber is concerned that L.D. 801 would inadvertently increase costs – encouraging consumers to overbuild their solar systems – and illustrates the limitations of the current compensation system in Maine for distributed generation, including solar.

Under the current Net-Energy Billing program, consumers exporting generation are not compensated for the value of the electricity at that time, but it creates a credit for future consumption of electricity. This structure fails to recognize the huge spectrum of the value of electricity depending on the time of production. If Maine pursued a more dynamic pricing structure, there would be no reason to have limitations on compensation for electricity generation. However, under our existing net-energy billing system there must be some limitation so customers do not simply expand the size of their solar system to build up higher quantities of credits. The effect of the bill under the current structure would simply add costs to an already expensive program.

Specifically, L.D. 801 would likely remove the incentive for consumers to design their solar projects in a way that reflects their true energy needs – potentially leading to projects that exceed their own consumption capacity. These overbuilds could result in additional costs for consumers as they would be paying for more solar capacity than may be required. Additional costs could drive up electricity prices – impacting businesses and ratepayers who are already struggling with inflationary pressures, including rising energy costs. Furthermore, it would impact funds used for the Low-Income Assistance Program, which come from the proceeds of expired Net-Energy Billing credits.

We believe this bill could have unintended consequences impacting consumers and, more broadly, Maine's energy grid. We would encourage the Committee to think about an entirely new model of compensation that provides more incentive for customers to export electricity when it is most valuable on the system and avoid production when there are low or negative prices. Thank you for your consideration.