



# SIERRA CLUB

## MAINE CHAPTER

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To: Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology  
From: Andrew Blunt, Sierra Club Maine  
Date: March 31, 2025  
Re: **Testimony in Support of L.D. 1130: *An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State***

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

I write on behalf of Sierra Club Maine Chapter, 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. To that end, we urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on L.D. 1130.

Energy storage is a crucial part of our clean energy transition. As the deployment of intermittent renewable energy generation advances, there is an ongoing and increasing need to build out energy storage resources with extended duration to ensure that our electric grid is stable. Long-duration Energy Storage (LDES) in particular stretches the benefits of renewable energy sources that are inherently intermittent. They allow for disbursement of a consistent and reliable stream of renewable energy, and will, over time, allow for renewables to displace expensive and polluting fossil fuels as our source of baseload electricity. LDES also allows for an even distribution of renewable energy over the course of a year, a very important benefit in Maine, where our seasonal weather provides inherent variation in our renewable generation potential.

Adding to our existing statutory goals of installing 400 megawatts of capacity by the end of 2030 by including a separate goal for 300 megawatts of LDES by 2035 is appropriate and necessary for our clean energy transition. That said, we encourage the Committee to discuss the possibility of aligning LDES goals with the 2030 timeline in statute for storage overall. The climate crisis is here now, and we should be doing all that we can to set goals that continue accelerating our energy transition and contribute to a safe and reliable electric future. Barring any technological necessities that require an extended timeline for LDES, we suggest that the Committee seriously consider a 2030 goal.

We encourage the Committee to vote "Ought to Pass" on L.D. 1130.

Sincerely,

Andrew Blunt  
Sierra Club Maine Chapter  
Legislative and Political Strategist