

Testimony of Elizabeth Woolfolk in Support of  
**LD 1130: An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. I am Elizabeth Woolfolk, and I am the Manager of Renewable Energy and Policy at A Climate to Thrive. A Climate to Thrive is a community-driven non-profit that is working on a clean energy transition that prioritizes community benefits across Maine, with a particular focus on energy equity. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to support **LD 1130: An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State.**

This bill seeks to amend Maine's energy storage goals by ensuring that an additional three-hundred megawatts of long-duration energy storage (LDES) is achieved by 2035, on top of the seven-hundred megawatts of LDES that the State seeks to have by 2030. This bill contains no requirements concerning the minimum or maximum storage capacity that these batteries will have, although LDES is generally accepted to be greater than eight hours.

LDES is critical to Maine for numerous reasons; most notably, it will save ratepayers money by serving as a tool for demand management, thus reducing the need for certain expensive grid upgrades. In 2024, pursuant to Public Law 2023 Chapter 374: An Act Relating to Energy Storage and the State's Energy Goals, the Governor's Energy Office found that LDES could be an essential component to balancing grid demand, and that this could save ratepayers money. Recent projections suggest these savings will depend on battery and energy stored, but can result in savings in the levelized cost of storage between \$.10 and \$.31.

Planning for investments in battery storage now will not only strengthen our grid, but it will also help prepare us for extended power outages. Some grid battery storage systems are able to mitigate grid disruptions for up to sixteen hours. By providing energy during grid disruptions, LDES will help Mainers by ensuring that the lights stay on.

As this committee is aware, natural gas drives electricity prices in New England. The more electricity produced and stored in-state, the less Maine needs to pull from out-of-state and expensive natural gas-generated electricity sources. The additional storage in this bill will help increase Maine's energy independence by encouraging the storage of local distributed generation, thus lowering the state's reliance on expensive out-of-state fossil fuels.

The federal Department of Energy projects that cost reductions in technologies that will secure ten hours or more in energy storage will amount to 90% of the current cost. Given the significant reductions in LDES technology costs that are forecasted to come in the next ten years, this is an important moment to ensure that Maine prioritizes battery storage and grid strengthening. For

these reasons, ACTT urges this committee to support the passage of **LD 1130: An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State.**