

Maine Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee

Dear Senator Mark Lawrence (D-York), Chair, Senator Nicole Grohoski (D-Hancock), and Senator Matthew Harrington (R-York):

My name is Jerry Wetterskog, and my wife and I reside at 47 Ferry Landing Road, Sargentville, ME 04673.

I'm submitting my written testimony **opposing** the Net Energy Billing (NEB) changes proposed in *LD 1321-An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation*. This legislation changes the definition of NEB so that credits only offset supply charges, not transmission and distribution charges. This will reduce the value of NEB credits by 50% for residential and small business customers. Countless Maine residents and small businesses made significant capital investments in solar projects based on the current state NEB legislation that provides reasonable payback of their expenditure. On numerous occasions energy providers such as CMP and Versant have also required residents and small businesses to pay for improvements to their electrical company infrastructure prior to connecting to the grid. If passed, the proposed 50% credit reduction will mean the solar system payback will be at the installation's end-of-life.

The bill will also reduce future project sizes to under 20 kW after November 2025 and limit projects to no more than 10 customers. These changes will virtually eliminate future municipal, small business, and cooperative solar projects. Where is the rationale in that? Shouldn't we be facilitating moving away from fossil fuels and supporting the development of solar projects rather than constraining them?

The state of Maine is a "clean energy" leader, making significant progress in its effort to reduce fossil fuel consumption and promote clean energy with its commitment Solar and Wind Energy. Passage of *LD 1321-An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation* will have a significant, negative impact in our state's fight against climate change and reducing Maine residents' carbon footprint.

For this reason, we urge the committee and legislature to **oppose** passing *LD 1321-An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation*.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry and Alison Wetterskog
47 Ferry Landing Road
Sargentville, ME 04673