



April 7, 2025

Senator Mark Lawrence
Representative Melanie Sachs
Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology
Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony re: LD 1270, “An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources” from ReVision Energy

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

ReVision Energy (“ReVision”) submits these comments as a Maine-founded, employee owned, certified B Corporation clean energy construction company with over 470 employees across our five branches in New England, including more than 225 co-owners in Maine between our Montville and South Portland locations. As a longstanding member of Maine’s growing clean energy industry, we work to achieve our mission of building the just and equitable electric future our state needs to meet our climate goals and ensure all Mainers have access to clean, affordable, local energy. ReVision is supportive of the creation of a cabinet-level Commissioner of Energy Resources and the establishment of a Department of Energy Resources here in Maine and therefore submits this testimony in support of LD 1270. Energy development and advancement is extremely complex and dedicating bureau-level resources to such a critical topic at an essential time in our energy transition will increase Maine’s ability to adapt to current energy demands and secure increased energy independence.

Maine’s Energy Plan suggests that electricity demand will double by 2050, and meeting such demand will require significant planning, procurement, and development of energy resources over the next twenty years. Ensuring our state has adequate infrastructure and expertise to take on such a challenge is critical. The Public Utilities Commission (“PUC”) and Efficiency Maine Trust have played and must continue to play a central role in preparing our grid for an electric future. As the experience of other states has demonstrated, a Department of Energy Resources equipped to implement planning and program development would complement these entities with added capacity to advance Maine’s energy independence, while ensuring that all households, communities, and businesses have access to an affordable, reliable, and resilient energy supply.

ReVision supports the incorporation of key statutory responsibilities of the Governor’s Energy Office into the language governing the Department of Energy Resources. In particular, ReVision is interested to see a Department of Energy Resources build upon recent planning efforts in developing a comprehensive state energy plan every two years, as directed by Section A-10, §10305. Such planning offers an essential roadmap for the coordinated development and utilization of energy resources in the state. We also support the proposed leadership role the Department of Energy Resources will play in advancing electricity agreements and clean energy job development as well as in collaborating with Efficiency Maine Trust to promote beneficial electrification.



We are also pleased to see the inclusion of §10311, which establishes the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program to foster growth of affordable distributed generation in the state. This section adapts a directive, codified in statute via Section 1 of LD 1986 in 2023, to create a successor program for the development of distributed generation, including storage. The structure of the proposed program reflects recommendations from a legislatively-directed stakeholder working group, which focused on the implementation of competitive procurements to ensure ratepayer benefits. Developing programs to maximize the cost-effectiveness of distributed generation development is an appropriate priority for the Department of Energy Resources.

We do wish to call attention to the statutory deadline for program establishment of 2028 proposed under §10311 and respectfully ask the Committee to assess whether an earlier deadline may be more appropriate. §10311 borrows directly from Section 1 of LD 1986, which required the Governor's Energy Office to establish a Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program no later than July 1, 2024. We respectfully question whether a new department would need four additional years to complete program development. At a time when electricity demand is rising, volatility in the global energy market is increasing, and our climate targets demand the deployment of renewable resources, this extensive runway for program development contradicts urgent need. Even more, §10311(4) explicitly requires the department to apply for federal funding from the Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Solar for All Program. The Governor's Energy Office did apply for such funding and notably, in 2024, received a \$62 million dollar grant for such a program. However, the EPA requires this funding to be deployed within five years of receiving the award, meaning the funding must be spent by 2029. Again, the 2028 program development deadline appears to be in direct conflict with the EPA program requirements. Finally, we wish to recommend that given recent political and policy developments, the Committee should consider whether tying such a program strictly to federal funding is effective, and whether there may be opportunities to broaden opportunities for program funding, including through the general fund.

ReVision is keenly interested in §10311(6) regarding energy procurement, which enables the Department of Energy Resources to petition the PUC to procure renewable energy from distributed solar and storage facilities. We believe this is an opportunity to increase transparency in the procurement process, including the identification of clear goals and guidelines up front, and the inclusion of specific criteria and parameters for both participation and awards. We believe these are areas ripe for improvement and that a Department of Energy Resources with dedicated expertise in advancing energy development is the right entity to take the opportunity to make such improvements. Refinements that allow for the rapid deployment of renewable resources in our state are all the more important in a time of rising energy prices and growing demand.

We appreciate your consideration and urge you to support LD 1270. Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lindsay Bourgoine

Lindsay Bourgoine
Director, Policy & Government Affairs
ReVision Energy