

Karen Robbins
Arrowsic
LD 1321

April 9, 2025

Dear Senator Lawrence and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

LD 1321: An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation does not support Maine's clean energy goals or its rate payers. LD 1321 would change the definition of net energy billing (NEB) so that credits only offset supply charges, not transmission and distribution charges. This would reduce the value of NEB credits by 50% for residential and small business customers. The bill would also reduce future project sizes to under 20 kW after November 2025 and limit projects to no more than 10 customers. These changes would virtually eliminate future municipal, small business, and cooperative solar projects.

Cooperative solar projects (CSP) are especially important in a state that is the most forested and rural of the lower 48. Without access to CSP those residences and businesses that are unsuited for on-site solar would be unable control their electricity prices nor reduce their carbon footprint. NEB is critical to helping Mainers equitably adopt solar. The program has resulted in the rapid deployment of solar across the state and has opened up an avenue for low and moderate-income community members to receive the benefits of solar ownership (significantly reduced energy costs and a reliable source of clean power) The projects built under NEB save all ratepayers money by paying for grid upgrades, reducing demand and lowering the state's dependence on expensive fossil fuels. Locally deployed solar power also reduces the State's exposure to detrimental international trade disagreements. If energy isn't imported from Canadian hydro projects or power plants fired by foreign fossil fuel Maine is more insulated from the volatility of these commodities.

It is imperative that we preserve NEB as it is currently defined and contractually agreed to with thousands of existing interconnect contracts. It is important to support Maine residents and business not companies entirely owned by a foreign corporation. Please do not change the current NEB rules or break contracts thus ensuring distributed generation remains beneficial and accessible for all Maine ratepayers.

Very respectfully,
Karen Robbins
PV System Owner, Owner of shares of a Community Solar Farm
Arrowsic