



Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 13, 2025

Re: LD 1210, An Act to Regarding Renewable Electricity Generation by Hydropower Projects

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in support of LD 1210, *An Act to Regarding Renewable Electricity Generation by Hydropower Projects*, on behalf of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable energy producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. Our member companies include wind, solar, hydropower, biomass, and tidal energy generators and developers of such projects, as well as companies that provide services to those producers, such as environmental engineers, electricians, and general contractors.

LD 1210 proposes to require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to consider the impact on decarbonization efforts in their review of hydropower project permitting and when issuing or denying a water quality certification for a hydropower project as required under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, among other considerations. MREA supports LD 1210 as a strategy to achieve Maine's 100% clean energy by 2040 goal, which relies considerably on hydropower.

Maine's pursuit of 100% clean energy by 2040 necessitates a reliance on existing hydropower resources. Hydropower accounts for over 30% of Maine's renewable energy generation, nearly always outperforming other renewable energy sources. In addition to the substantial carbon-free megawatts that hydropower in Maine contributes to our regional grid, hydropower is a critical component of a diverse energy resource mix because it is exceptionally reliable and can be easily dispatched. Hydropower can and does provide baseload energy supply, working in tandem with intermittent resources like solar and wind.

The loss of hydropower, a reliable support for a zero-carbon grid, would negatively impact clean energy goals and broader decarbonization efforts. LD 1210 would appropriately ensure certification decisions better balance competing needs and resources. We urge the Committee to vote 'Ought to Pass' on LD 1210.

www.renewablemaine.org

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliza Donoghue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.
Executive Director