



Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 13, 2025

Re: Public Hearing, LD 1242, An Act to Incentivize the Construction of Solar Carport Canopies and Solar Chargers at Highway Picnic Areas

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in support of LD 1242, *An Act to Incentivize the Construction of Solar Carport Canopies and Solar Chargers at Highway Picnic Areas*, 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 1242 directs the Department of Transportation to enter into leases at no cost at highway picnic areas for the installation of solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations. The bill also allows a person that builds or has built a solar carport canopy that houses at least 2 electric vehicle charging stations to amortize the sales and use tax assessed on materials and equipment spent to construct the solar carport canopy and any electric vehicle charging stations under the solar carport canopy. MREA supports this bill as a meaningful strategy to advance Maine's clean energy and greenhouse gas emission goals.

In addition to the value this bill brings to advance Maine's clean transportation goals, which are foundational to achieving Maine's broader greenhouse gas emission goals, this bill supports renewable energy infrastructure that can otherwise be cost-prohibitive. Solar carport canopies located in parking lots, on top of park garages, or on other already-impacted spaces make a lot of sense from a land-use perspective. Unfortunately, they are more expensive to construct than typical ground-mounted solar arrays and therefore, there is less incentive to build them. LD 1242 would help to overcome this barrier and as such, MREA supports the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of MREA's testimony.

www.renewablemaine.org

Sincerely,

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

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.
Executive Director