



1 May 2025

Public Testimony on LD 1777 and Small General Service Thresholds

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Committee,

My name is Tyler Eads, and I'm here on behalf of SolarLogix to express concern with LD 1777 and to urge action on another critical issue: modernizing the kilowatt threshold for Small General Service customers.

First, on LD 1777: While we appreciate the bipartisan effort from Representatives Warren and Foster, this bill misses the mark. It gives the PUC unchecked authority to change Tariff Program compensation rates at any time, without clear guidelines or timing. Creating deep uncertainty for Maine schools, towns, and small businesses, many of whom have already made significant investments in Maine renewable projects with the expectation of stable rates and good faith program stewardship.

The vague mandate for a "just and reasonable" rate offers no clarity on how the PUC would make that determination. The lack of direction here could grind the program to a halt, and that hurts the very communities the program was intended to support.

Separately, I urge this Committee to support raising the kilowatt threshold for Small General Service customers. It is often missed, nor understood, that due to rate class structure in our state, many if not most small Maine businesses investing in collocated onsite-usage rooftop solar projects are doing so unwillingly under the Tariff rate program. From car dealerships, municipalities, restaurants, and even the country farm. In doing so, it would allow these businesses to participate in the NEB kWh program instead, simplifying the interconnection process and costs associated with NEB program management. Hence maximizing the benefits for all rate payers from solar investment in their communities and encouraging in state investment and job growth.

Current limits of 20–25 kW are outdated. Maine businesses often cross that line simply by operating normally and are pushed prematurely into Medium General Service rates with higher costs and complex charges, for example the Maine Blue Berry growers that we have heard from before on this topic. Other New England states use thresholds of 30 to 50 kW or more. Maine should do the same.



Raising the threshold evens the playing field for Maine small businesses, aligns with regional norms, and supports Maine's clean energy goals that benefit all rate payers, rather than penalizing businesses that invest in efficiency.

In short: LD 1777, as written, creates regulatory instability and undermines the solar investments Mainers have already made. And it's past time we modernize Small General Service thresholds to reflect today's realities, a simple solution that gets at the heart of the spirit of LD1777.

Thank you for your time and continued leadership.

Tyler G. Eads

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

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LD 1777

I will give this statement tomorrow in public testimony.