



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony in Support of LD1850, An Act to Improve Interagency Coordination on Renewable Energy Construction Projects

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Lucy Hochschartner, and I am the Climate and Clean Energy Director with Maine Conservation Voters (MCV). MCV represents over 14,000 members and supporters who are building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I am here to testify in support of LD 1850, An Act to Improve Interagency Coordination on Renewable Energy Construction Projects.

MCV has long been involved in Maine's work to transition to clean energy. We engage at the state legislature each year, and we have been deeply involved in the work of the Maine Climate Council. We have been excited about Maine's progress — from enacting an 80% renewable portfolio standard in 2019¹ to adopting Maine Won't Wait 2.0 last year.² This flurry of activity has spurred huge investment in our clean energy economy, but at the same time, that progress has been hard to track. Making one central repository across agencies that are disbursing funds will help both policymakers and advocates. For MCV, accurate project-level data will help us in our work to support projects through the permitting process to ensure they actually get built, conserve our natural environment, and pass responsive policies. The regular reports to the legislature are also a particularly key piece of this legislation and will help to both make sure policies are being implemented as intended and provide feedback about whether policy changes are needed in order to best support our climate, labor, and equity goals. This is simple, common sense, and comprehensive legislation. We hope you vote ought to pass on LD1850.

Sincerely,
Lucy Hochschartner

¹ Governor's Energy Office. (Accessed May 2025). Renewable Portfolio Standard.
<https://www.maine.gov/energy/initiatives/renewable-energy/renewable-portfolio-standard>

² Maine Climate Council. (Nov 2024). Maine Won't Wait.
https://www.maine.gov/climateplan/sites/maine.gov.climateplan/files/2024-11/MWW_2024_Book_112124.pdf