

Testimony of Jeffrey Jones, P.E (jeff@jonespe.com) in Support of: L.D. 1868 An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws

Chair Pro Tempore Kessler and esteemed members of the committee. I am Jeff Jones of Bangor. I run Maine Power LLC; we are the Large Class Standard Offer Provider for most of the state.¹ I'm tired of seeing us throw money out the window with NEB. This bill presents a much smarter way to reach our climate goals by increasing the supply of clean resources and letting the market for clean energy work. NEB is a tax on electricity. Basic economics would tell us that we should not tax what we want (energy from clean and efficient electricity) and instead tax what we don't want (energy from carbon-polluting fossil fuels).

I will make a couple of suggestions that would help us electricity suppliers meet enhanced climate goals at reasonable prices:

1. Increase the percentage of Class III required, which will relieve some of the pressure on supply of the other resources.
2. The RFPs should be run by the MPUC, not the GEO. The non-partisan MPUC has the expertise and experience with Standard Offer RFPs and Long Term Contracts to much better run these solicitations.
3. Make sure to eliminate the 100 MW cap on all resources to increase supply which should result in lower prices for consumers.
4. Add natural gas, combined cycle resources with a net heat rate requirement of 5500 Btu/kWh (current best available technology for repowering existing combined cycle plants) for the low emission resources.

Thanks for your time and I hope you will agree.

¹ I am a licensed Professional Engineer (electric power) with an MBA. I have worked in the utility industry for almost fifty years, forty of those with a major utility where I served in many functions. I have always tried to make sure electric bills were fair and AFFORDABLE for our customers. I also volunteer with the Citizens' Climate Lobby, but today I am here as a concerned citizen and former utility rates manager in support of revising our Net Energy Billing (NEB) laws.