Charlie Duprey
The Wishcamper Companies, Inc. (“TWC”)
May 12, 2025

Testimony of Charlie Duprey on behalf of TWC in opposition of LD 1936

Senator Lawrence,
Representative Sachs,
Members of the EUT Committee,

My name is Charlie Duprey, and I am the Vice President of Solar Development for The Wishcamper Companies, Inc. (“TWC”). TWC is a Maine-based developer and owner of affordable housing and renewable energy. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to LD 1936.

TWC owns and operates seven solar arrays throughout the state that participate in NEB. Through this program, we provide our offtakers with significant electricity savings. Our offtakers include schools, universities, municipalities, and hospitals. These deep-rooted Maine institutions use the savings from our solar arrays to expand offerings, improve services, strengthen their workforce, and enhance fiscal security. First and foremost, moving the tariff rate to 9.5 cents as proposed in this legislation would eliminate nearly all of our offtakers’ planned savings. Currently, our offtakers receive a 15-20% discount which means for every kwh credit they are allocated, they are reducing their electric bill by 4-5 cents. If the rate were to move to 9.5 cents, they would only be receiving a 1-2 cent benefit. Additionally, for our offtakers operating under a fixed rate PPA, a 9.5 cent rate would mean they are underwater and paying more for electricity if they are subscribed to an array.

TWC has made significant investments in the state of Maine to construct and operate its solar arrays. If tariff rates were moved to 9.5 cents, TWC would default on the sizeable loans we have with Maine-based lenders. We would also default on our financial obligations to our Maine investors. The commitments we made were based on the enacted NEB rules, which have already been amended through LD 634 in 2022 and, more recently, LD 1986. Stated otherwise, every single project in NEB would need to petition the PUC as directed by the legislation which shows the compensation rate is too low.

Lastly, while my written testimony is meant to foreshadow the devastating impact to operating assets LD 1936 would have, I suggest the committee consider the ratepayer savings if the original tariff rate projects were moved to the LD 634 alternative rate. Depending on the project sizes that move to the alternative rate, this change has the potential to save $30+ million annually. Coupled with reasonable changes to other parts of the program, there is an opportunity to enact impactful cost saving measures while allowing operating assets to satisfy their established obligations.

I am happy to meet with any member of the EUT committee to further discuss my proposed reforms.

TWC opposes these bills, and we urge you to vote **Ought Not to Pass.**