



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC
AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



MICHAEL A. DUGUAY
COMMISSIONER

May 21, 2025

**Senator Mark Lawrence
Representative Melanie Sachs
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333**

Re: LD 597, An Act Concerning Energy, Utilities and Technology

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and honored members of the Energy Utilities and Technology Committee,

I am writing today in support of the sponsor's amendment for LD 597, An Act Concerning Energy, Utilities and Technology.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this legislation. I submit this testimony on behalf of the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), which works collaboratively to support business development through available resources that Maine has to offer. In this work, DECD helps Maine communities attract new investment, create jobs, and grow their infrastructure with unique programs.

DECD supports this legislation's effort to advance the development of new local, homegrown and clean energy resources that offer the opportunity to provide cost-effective energy resources to Maine people and businesses challenged by high and volatile energy costs.

This bill offers refinement of past efforts and directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to expedite procurement of energy or renewable energy credits through a structured, competitive process with preference for projects on previously developed or contaminated lands.



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR



MICHAEL A. DUGUAY
COMMISSIONER

While we recognize that the requirement for the PUC to initiate the solicitation within 7 days of enactment may not be workable, DECD supports expeditious action to restart this process. These potential projects represent not just clean energy production but also use

land that is otherwise unsuitable for much else. Developing land impacted by PFAS and Brownfield sites can bring new life to parcels that have significant challenges and limited opportunities for redevelopment.

We urge the committee to work with the PUC and the Governor's Energy Office on potential amendments to ensure this work is aligned with other procurement activities and is done in an expeditious but cost-effective manner.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Duguay
Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development