

Jonathan Wilcox  
Paris  
LD 1730

Greetings, Committee Member Legislators

The technology is here for all people to benefit from solar energy, it's time for the rules to be updated to account for portable, plug-in solar. This bill will improve the ability of renters, and those with homes that aren't suitable for traditional solar, and those low-income households, to help lower their electricity bills at a time of steep utility price increases.

I believe Maine has the opportunity to lead in energy equity and resilience. This bill would provide enormous public benefit, we need to go away from using toxic, expensive, damaging, inefficient, and polluting fossil fuels and transition to an electron-based, and an ecologically-based future; where we all can all thrive, reducing pollution, and correcting the direction of extreme climate heating that science has shown to exist. This 'heating' was postulated in 1879. This dangerous climate crisis is now upon us by actions of burning fossil fuels over the past 150 (or so) years. Solar is the least costly form of energy to harness, distribute, and is most efficient in conversion, to power our future. The Sun provides more than enough energy every day for all our needs. This is a win-win improvement in the rules, economically and ecologically, both for reduced utility bills of households, and for the environment. We need all the sustainable clean energy we can get. Please do all you can to stop the expansion and use of fossil fuel use as it's destroying the habitability of our planet, You are responsible to our descendants to preserve the habitability of our planet.

I want to embrace the use of plug-in solar and I urge you to support this legislation, LD 1730 An Act Regarding the Beneficial Electrification Policy of the State

This bill will boost economic activity in Maine. (Vermont and New Hampshire also have legislation pending.) Similar legislation has already been passed in other states.

These systems offset electricity use behind the meter and will not participate in Maine's Net Metering.

This is proven technology, where in Europe, millions of installations are successfully reducing utility costs.

Current level 1 interconnection rules are designed for systems that are 5-15 times larger than plug-in systems and those outdated rules inhibit affordability and widespread adoption of plug-in systems.

This bill contributes to Maine's climate goals. These new smaller systems can play a role in addressing energy affordability and accessibility.

And according to the Maine Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council report of December 2024, low-income households are above the target (actually double the target) and this legislation would enable immediate (plug-in), as well as an effective contribution to reducing the burden low-income households face by generating their own clean energy, significantly reducing electricity expenses.

Thank you for your time and consideration,