

December 31, 2025

TO: Members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee

FROM: Richard B. Peterson, PhD.

RE: LD 1730 An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis

I am writing in support of the legislature passing LD 1730 during the upcoming session of the Maine Legislature. Electricity costs for Maine consumers are some of the highest in the nation and continue to go up. Maine residents can expect to pay an additional \$11-\$16/month beginning [January 1, 2026](#). This bill primarily addresses issues of affordability, one of the key concerns voiced by many in Maine. It will help reduce those rising electric bills by enabling average Maine residents to capture free energy produced by the sun.

These systems have been used successfully for more than 10 years in Germany and other European countries under legislations governing their use. Adoption has taken off and they now estimate up to [4 million people](#) are using the systems. Data from Germany show that the average 800-watt system will offset 15-20% of household electricity [demand](#). They are relatively cheap—an 800-watt system without a battery is currently selling for around [\\$1000](#) in Utah, the only state where these systems are currently legal. They do not require one to hire an electrician but can simply be plugged into a wall socket. It's that simple. Their low cost means they will not require state subsidies but can rely on market supply and demand to keep them affordable.

New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Pennsylvania join Maine in bringing similar legislation as passed in Utah into consideration. Passing this legislation in Maine will also help the state meet its climate action goals. For both reasons of affordability and as a positive contribution to lessening our dependence on fossil fuels by harnessing energy directly from the sun, LD 1730 offers a subsidy-free, effective, time-tested, and practical solution.