

January 2, 2026

Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee

AUGUSTA

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

Dear Committee,

I am the founder of CamdenCAN, a climate action group in Camden, Maine. We have over 600 folks who read our mailings, and I am writing to urge support for LD 1730 (aka the “plug-in solar” bill).

We are thrilled that this legislation is under development, and applaud all the work that got the committee this far.

There are many positives of this bill:

- The bill imposes no cost to the state or utilities.
- No subsidies or incentives are called for.
- No impact on the utility (except maybe a small positive one in the form of free electricity to the grid).
- No net metering is involved.
- Safety is accounted for, both inside the home and for the utility (e.g. line workers). In fact, it's essentially invisible to the utility.
- It gets solar into the hands of the people, who will begin to reap financial benefits as soon as they plug it in.
- It makes solar accessible to households who are otherwise shut out of access to solar, particularly renters and lower income households.
- Plug-in solar can save 15% to 20% off electricity usage from supplier.

This bill is similar to 2025 Utah House Bill HB 340. The bipartisan Utah bill was written with full involvement of the utility, whose primary request was release of liability on the part of the utility. This provision was added to the bill, and is also in Maine's LD 1730. The Utah house passed the bill 72-0-3, the senate passed it 26-0-3, and the governor signed it on March 3rd 2025.

VT, NY, NH are all also pursuing this legislation, which will encourage manufacturers to rapidly get the panels into the stores. It's an exciting time for solar and Maine can see benefits quickly once we get this legislation passed.

Many thanks,

Molly Mulhern

Founder, CamdenCAN, camdencan.org

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