

Cynthia Stancioff  
Camden  
LD 1730

Dear Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

Thank you for accepting my testimony in support of LD 1730, which aims to make a new and more affordable solar energy option available to Maine households.

Current interconnection requirements for domestic solar are designed to address safety and other issues relevant to systems 5-15 times the size of these systems, which will be 1,200 watts or less. By creating a waiver for interconnection requirements for these small, simple systems, this legislation would remove a major barrier to plug-in solar access for Mainers.

While a few solar panels will not supply any household's total electricity, the systems this involves should be able to save people 15-20% of their electricity costs. Retail sales opportunities for these panels will grow dramatically. Some people will want to invest in a battery system that will allow limited energy independence in emergencies - the installation of which will provide work for electricians.

With no government expenditures at all, this bill has the potential to lower households' energy costs, increase economic activity, generate more green energy with no added regulatory burden to utilities, and even provide net benefit to the utility because there is no net energy billing involved - people's systems will quite often produce unneeded power that will be fed back onto the grid.

There is no perceptible downside to LD 1730, so I hope the Committee will agree that it ought to pass.

Thank you  
Cynthia Stancioff  
Camden