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LD 1730

Chair Lawrence, Chair Sachs and Fellow Ratepayers on the EUT Committee.  
I oppose LD 1730.

Sneaking an energy bill into passage requires ingenuity. Sometimes it means delivering it during an abnormally timed committee session. Such is LD 1730, originally a "Concept Bill" which means a bill with no specifics so no one knows what it is. The amended LD 1730 escapes ambiguity at an opportune moment as the standard offer for electricity is now over 2 cents per kilowatt hour more.

The best way to explain LD 1730 is as it was brought forward by three New Hampshire journalists, OPINION: Want Lower Electric Bills? It's Time to Try Competition - NH Journal who wrote on October 5, 2025 :

"Similarly, there are now easily accessible alternatives that have reached a level of maturity, making them a genuine choice. One can now purchase simple, portable, plug-in, off-grid solar and battery combinations at a combined lifetime cost of about 12 cents a kilowatt hour (including the cost of replacing the batteries after a decade or so). Compare that to what you're paying to your utility. Increasingly, consumers will have truly competitive options when looking for independence from the utilities." Sounds reasonable until you realize the Democrats are playing a long game that would have solar, wind and batteries destined to replace what ISO-NE now calls "Balancing Resources" or "Dispatchable Generation" served by natural gas plants, hydro plants and oil-fired plants. Pillar Two: Balancing Resources Which is to say, the more solar and batteries replacing reliable generation, the more value attached to the reliable generation which means more costs to the ratepayers.

Another unintentional consequence is the loss of electricity delivered by CMP and Versant. As delivery of electricity is a fixed cost in one sense, reducing the amount of kilowatt hours deliverable reduces revenues to the utilities and rate increases are a certainty. Again the favored renewable resources will not replace dispatchable resources for obvious reasons, it will not lower electricity prices.

But, the renewable lobby will not be stopped. As president Reagan said, " If it stops moving" the government will subsidize it.

In my opinion, LD 1730 is a precursor to directing Efficiency Maine Trust to provide rebates for these pv/battery systems so many more people will be sucked-in. Does the term "Beneficial Electrification" come to mind?

In my opinion, this leads to "Regulatory Capture" where government incentives allow the government to "Capture" control over the electricity used in individual homes simply because people trusted the government and signed up for programs under the assumption of saving money. Government handouts, like heat pump rebates, low income assistance programs, net energy billing and the next social, pull the wool over the eyes, institute the illegal thief of people's money, to activate numerous pv/battery systems is a front to dictate living conditions. This bill is another brutal trap to ruin the unexpected. Pure evil.

This bill takes advantage of people as well as the conventional electricity delivery system. Pure Evil.