

Marina Schauffler
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LD 1730

Dear Members of the EUT Committee,

LD 1730, the plug-in solar bill, provides a path for people of all means to access affordable solar power – potentially reducing their monthly electricity bills 15 to 20 percent. Low-income Maine residents face an energy burden three times the average rate, one that's growing as electricity rates skyrocket. By giving Mainers access to plug-in solar systems, this bill offers vital relief to struggling seniors, renters and families of moderate means.

Currently, Maine has incentives and programs for insulation/weatherization and heat pump installation, but solar energy remains too costly for most households. LD 1730 changes that, giving everyone access to clean, low-cost solar power. In Utah, households are acquiring 800-kw systems for under \$1,000.

Paired with batteries, plug-in solar systems offer critical power during extended power outages – boosting the state's emergency preparedness.

LD 1730 provides numerous benefits to Maine residents at no cost to the State. Please give the bill your full support.

Thank you for your consideration.