

Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

January 6, 2026

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 Chair Lawrence, Chair Sachs, and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee:

My name is Anthony Erwin and I am Maine Audubon's Policy Advocate. Since 1843, Maine Audubon has worked to conserve Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat by engaging people in education, conservation, and action. The oldest and largest Maine-based conservation organization, Maine Audubon has eight public centers and sanctuaries across the state, seven chapters, and 30,000 members, volunteers, and supporters, and connects with more than 250,000 people annually. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our members, supporters, and volunteers we thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1730: *An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis*.

The most pervasive threat facing wildlife in Maine is climate change. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increasingly frequent extreme weather events due to changes in climate are altering habitats and migration patterns for countless bird and animal species. These changes also exacerbate the stressors that wildlife are already facing due to habitat loss and fragmentation. If we hope to protect all of Maine's important species and habitats, we must accelerate our transition to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future and away from the burning of fossil fuels.

A key component of this transition is affordability and access to clean energy sources. LD 1730 would allow Mainers to use small, portable, plug-in solar devices without the burdensome interconnection requirements designed for large rooftop arrays. This would make clean energy ownership more accessible for far more people in Maine. By making clean energy more accessible for more people, Maine can continue its transition away from the burning of fossil fuels and as a result lessen the impacts of climate change on wildlife and their habitats.

Protecting wildlife means protecting the habitats they depend on, and that includes addressing every threat to the natural world, including climate change. **Maine Audubon urges you to support LD 1730 as a way to better protect wildlife and ensure a more sustainable future for Maine.**

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to a more sustainable Maine.

Sincerely,



Anthony Erwin
Policy Advocate