



Senator Mark Lawrence
Representative Melanie Sachs
Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology
Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

January 6, 2026

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*” from ReVision Energy

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

Founded in Liberty in 2003, ReVision Energy today boasts more than 200 co-owners across the state in our Montville and South Portland locations. As a certified B-Corporation, 100% employee-owned clean energy construction company, we develop, install, and maintain residential, community, and commercial solar, as well as storage, EV charging, and heat pumps. While plug-in solar is not in our product offerings, we are pleased to support this legislation given its alignment with our mission of creating a just and equitable electric future—a future that we desire to see regardless of whether we are doing the work. This bill will increase accessibility to renewable energy to a broad group of Mainers.

The thoughtful allowance of plug-in solar democratizes energy production by providing more people the opportunity to benefit from solar power by addressing barriers including dwelling constraints or financial exclusion. Solar—as it always has been—is a solution for rising electricity prices. Enabling smaller solar systems introduces affordability and thus increases market access, enabling more Mainers to take agency over their electricity bills—especially those that need the most relief. We understand that not everyone can afford traditional residential solar—which is one reason we are committed to seeking ways to bring such systems to the market at lower costs—and we believe the price point of plug-in solar offers increased equity by introducing an opportunity for more Mainers to be a part of our state’s clean energy future. The technology quite literally gives power to people.

We appreciate that this legislation aims to simplify the interconnection process for small solar systems by allowing individuals to install such technology through a notification process versus a lengthy application process. Given plug-in solar is not designed to exceed a home’s baseload demand for electricity, it is not necessary to install expensive protective equipment or conduct expert engineering reviews. The interconnection process has sadly become one of the greatest barriers to the deployment of clean energy, and alongside permitting, has significantly raised the soft costs of solar installations, ultimately making them accessible to fewer people. We believe smaller projects and/or systems with zero export can and should be relieved of such burdens to increase accessibility and thus deployment as this legislation outlines in Section 3.



However, we do believe it is important to point out that adding a “zero export control” requirement does ultimately limit accessibility. National plug-in solar installers suggest that adding such a requirement increases the price point of plug-in solar by requiring expensive backfeed prevention hardware and requiring installation by an electrician, which undermines much of the access-broadening in the first place. We urge the bill sponsors to consider striking the right balance to ensure the goals of the legislation can be achieved.

Regarding the specific legislation, we offer a few comments for language improvements:

- In Section 4, Subsection A outlines the definition of an eligible system and sites specific code (National Electrical Code Article 705 in A.(1) and National Electrical Code Article 690.12 in A.(4). Given the changing nature of code, we recommend avoiding specific citations in statute in case of updates. Further, Given National Electrical Code has been adopted in Maine, these references are already requirements. Unless the implication is that these references are the only part of the electrical code where compliance is required, we recommend simply requiring compliance with state electrical code.
- We appreciate Section 4, Subsection A.(5) which requires compliance with any additional forthcoming standards from the Electricians Examining Board. It is our understanding there is work to develop a UL listing specifically for plug-in solar, and once established, compliance can be required. It should be clear that once building code references these systems, they must be compliant, but in the meantime, they are permitted by rule.
- Similarly, we again recommend referencing National Electrical Code in Section 4, Subsection E—the definition of individual branch circuit is pulled directly from code (National Electrical Code Article 100), and rather than codify it into statute, we recommend referencing the code as definitions change as well.

Overall, we strongly support this legislation. Even in Maine’s climate, a single 400-watt solar panel pointed at the sun can generate over 500 kilowatt-hours (kWh) of electricity a year. That’s enough to power a typical dishwasher and fridge year-round. Triple your system to 1,200 watts with three solar panels and you can cover the rest of your kitchen appliances, a computer, and a television. In dollar terms, that three-panel kit will save a typical family \$300-\$400 a year at current electricity rates and pay itself off in a few years.

Solar is a surprisingly simple solution to the affordability crisis—and this legislation offers Mainers the opportunity to lower their electricity bills and become more energy independent. Please pass LD 1730; thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lindsay Bourgoine

Lindsay Bourgoine
Director, Policy & Government Affairs
ReVision Energy