

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

January 5, 2026

**RE: LD1730 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 Richy Ainsworth, and I am the Associate Director at the Center for an Ecology Based Economy (CEBE) in Norway, Maine. CEBE's goal is to engage the community in addressing the climate emergency. We organize, educate, take direct action, and implement practical, ecological solutions for a just transition to a thriving, regenerative economy. We serve the western foothills region with programs focused in food, shelter, energy, transportation, education, and bioregioning.

I am writing to you to offer testimony in support of LD 1730, specifically as the bill realizes equitable access to portable plug-in home solar generation systems that is already being utilized elsewhere in the United States and across Europe, so why not Maine. CEBE's primary support for this bill is not only in its potential climate impact, but in the opportunity it would bring to the people in our service area who are struggling to pay their utility bills and seeking relief.

Given the lofty (and necessary) goals set in Maine Won't Wait, paired with the opportunity to use an affordable and basic technology to provide distributed solar generation to every household in Maine, this bill will help meet the 100% clean electricity by 2040 goal in Maine established by LD 1868 last year. To achieve this goal we are required to use every tool and technology available to us, and thankfully this bill provides a straightforward option to get us part of the way there. Enabling Mainers to produce small-scale solar generation to feed directly into their homes will allow a portion of their energy needs to be directly met by harnessing the power of the sun, and with aggregation across the state will provide substantial positive impacts.

Furthermore the roll out of such systems will further enable solar PhotoVoltaic energy generation to become a daily feature in all of our lives and help to demystify the cheapest form of new electricity generation that is our collective future.

According to [U.S. Energy Information Administration](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a),<sup>1</sup> average prices for residential electricity use in Maine increased 14.12% between October 2024 to October 2025, the largest increase in the North East, from 0.2578 to 0.2942 \$/kWh.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm\\_table\\_grapher.php?t=epmt\\_5\\_6\\_a](https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.php?t=epmt_5_6_a)

An [estimated](#)<sup>2</sup> 1,541 kWh could be generated from a 1200W portable system in Oxford County. Using the above average costs per kWh, potentially saving households \$450 in their energy costs and providing a short payback period.

Furthermore, to put this opportunity into comparable context, if we assume only 25% of Maine households are able to adopt such a system, this would still be the equivalent of replicating the state's largest solar installation, Three Corners solar 152MW facility in Kennebec County, without having to disturb any land, or five times the capacity of the new Sanford Mousam River Solar 28MW project that has been making recent headlines.

Given the state of Utah passing [H.B. 340](#) in March 2025<sup>3</sup> and our neighboring states of Vermont, New York and New Hampshire considering similar legislation, let's ensure that Mainers can also take advantage of this opportunity.

We believe the path to 100% clean energy necessitates affordable and accessible options that increases energy independence and decreases utility bills. Passing LD 1730 will enable Maine households to reduce their energy burden without having to afford expensive rooftop systems, ensure equity regardless of home ownership and enable distributed access to the clean energy needed to meet Maine's climate goals without the need for additional subsidies. Thank you for your time and consideration, and CEBE is available to provide further information if requested.

Sincerely,



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<sup>2</sup> [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HfRIwoRxky1Uqww\\_19\\_6vPy-H54RIIQE/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HfRIwoRxky1Uqww_19_6vPy-H54RIIQE/view?usp=sharing)

<sup>3</sup> <https://le.utah.gov/~2025/bills/static/HB0340.html>

Richy Ainsworth  
Center for an Ecology Based Economy  
LD 1730

Please find attached our testimony of support for LD1730 An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis. Happy to answer any questions.

Thank you

Richy Ainsworth