



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

January 5, 2026

Re: Public Hearing, 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 Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share 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*, on behalf of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable energy producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. Our member companies include wind, solar, hydropower, and biomass energy generators and developers of such projects, as well as companies that provide services to those producers and developers, such as environmental engineers, electricians, and general contractors.

“Plug-in solar” has been widely adopted throughout Europe and offers an accessible means for customers to invest in clean energy generation at their homes. Similarly, “plug-in battery systems” offer an accessible, affordable means to support Maine people during power outages and otherwise. MREA supports LD 1730 as amended¹ because the bill will facilitate the same benefits to Maine people.

“Plug-in solar” includes small, compact systems that have been modified to U.S. electrical standards and can plug into a standard electrical outlet. The systems themselves are comparatively low-cost (\$600 - \$5,000) and along with their utility cost saving benefits, serve to reduce load.

In early 2025, Utah adopted H.B. 340, a bi-partisan, budget-neutral legislative measure that defines “plug-in solar” as a new solar class and exempts the systems from standard utility interconnection and net-metering agreements. Exemption from standard utility interconnection agreements reflect the fact that the systems are vastly smaller (5 - 15 times) than typical

¹ MREA’s testimony refers to a sponsor’s amendment to LD 1730 that was distributed to Committee stakeholders on December 30, 2025.

residential solar systems. The installation and use of these devices is appropriately governed by the National Electric Code, as is proposed in LD 1730.

For these reasons and more, MREA encourages the Committee to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD 1730.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliza Donoghue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Eliza" on the top line and "Donoghue" on the bottom line.

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.
Executive Director