

Betsy Williams
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LD 1730

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. My name is Betsy Williams and I live in Brunswick. As an active member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Action Network, I am writing in support of LD 1730 which reflects two of our core religious values—equity and interdependence. This bill is right for the environment, and it is right for Mainers.

Although I recognize there is some disagreement among Americans regarding the degree of negative impact of fossil fuel use, I believe we all agree that finding and supporting alternatives mitigates whatever harm is caused. As a Unitarian Universalist I believe strongly that humans are but one part of an interconnected web of existence and that we must see ourselves as stewards of this web. LD 1730 allows more of us the chance to be such stewards.

Individual and collective use of solar power has been a successful tool for addressing Maine's climate goals. However, buying and installing solar panels is very expensive, making this tool inaccessible to most Mainers. By supporting small plug-in solar units, LD 1730 makes clean energy ownership affordable and accessible to thousands who are currently shut out.

Across the United States state legislatures have enacted similar regulatory changes to allow greater participation in meeting their state climate goals. Please join them by voting yes on LD 1730—level the playing field and invite thousands more Mainers to participate in the effort to be good stewards of the Earth.

Thank you.