

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

My name is Corliss Davis; I live in Belfast; and I am testifying in strong 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.**

I am excited to learn about these plug-in solar options and their usefulness for renters and owners of older homes like ours with roofs not suitable for solar panels. We installed two heat pumps in our 1875 Belfast home in 2013. They have provided nearly all the heat we have needed ever since, but because of the elongated footprint of our house that heat doesn't cover our living space evenly. Being able to add small, outdoor, solar units to serve isolated rooms could really help. The fact that they can be installed by an electrician almost anywhere – deck, balcony, ground, the side of a building etc. makes them especially attractive.

Since we do not have a generator, it's also encouraging to learn that plug-in solar devices combined with small batteries could provide some backup power during outages.

I'm gratified that LD1730 could give relief to the low-income families in Maine who spend twice the recommended share of their income on electricity. Even without state or federal subsidies, plug-in solar devices could help renters, seniors on fixed incomes, and low-income households participate in Maine's energy transition.

LD1730 ensures Maine stays on track with its climate goals by enlarging access to solar, lowering emissions, and expanding participation in clean energy by more Mainers.

I strongly urge an "ought to pass" vote on LD1730 and thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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