

Kerry Read  
South Paris  
LD 1730

Senator Mark Lawrence, Representative Melanie Sachs and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee ,

I am writing in support of LD 1730.

I am a 71 year old retiree and landlord. I own and live in an 1890's home in South Paris. This building was gradually converted into a 4-unit apartment building over the past 125 years. You know these buildings. They are the homes of your constituents, relatives, and friends that live in apartments in small towns in Maine. Two years ago, I took advantage of an Efficiency Maine incentive program to install heat pumps and eliminate my use of fuel oil. I feel strongly that we all need to do what we can to address the climate crisis and I appreciate Maine's commitment to addressing the harms and ongoing dangers of climate change. I don't regret doing my part. What I find unacceptable is the outrageous and inflated electricity bills that I and my tenants are burdened with.

If Maine is going to substantially reduce fossil fuel consumption, we need to take advantage of every resource and technological advance available for using clean energy. And we need to make sure that all of us can participate in the transition. This is about building equity and resilience in our communities, while protecting our environment.

My building isn't suitable for solar panels and I couldn't afford them even if it was. This bill makes clean energy ownership accessible to me, my tenants and my neighbors. Please vote, "ought to pass" on LD 1730.