

Susan Payne
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LD 1730

I am writing to ask you support LD 1730.

This bill creates a new category for small plug-in solar generation devices less than or equal to 1,200 watts, eliminates interconnection requirements for these devices, and establishes basic safety requirements. The panels can be placed on an apartment balcony, for example, and just plugged into an outlet.

If this bill is approved, Maine will be at the forefront of practical, cheap, clean home energy production. It will bring affordable and accessible renewable energy to Mainers, reducing our energy costs, promoting renewable energy, and reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are so harmful to our climate, environment, health, and livelihoods.

These panels will be very popular, I believe. In September, as part of Sun Day in Portland, members of Third Act asked visitors to “vote” on which of about 10 simple devices or innovations they would most likely to see or have. Hands down, small solar panels won. I saw them used in real life this summer. At Ft. Williams Park, a man parked his car, got out a couple of small panels, and plugged them into the car. He said he used them on a long-distance trip to recharge his car battery. He’d bought them out of state at a discount store.

Please support LD 1730.