



Conservation
Law Foundation

For a thriving New England

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**Testimony before the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
in support of LD 1730, *An Act Regarding the Beneficial Electrification Policy of the State***

January 6, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Phelps Turner, and I am a Senior Attorney and Director of Clean Grid at the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). I appreciate this opportunity to testify in support of LD 1730, *An Act Regarding the Beneficial Electrification Policy of the State*, and the sponsor's amendment offered by Senator Grohoski on December 30, 2025.

CLF, founded in 1966, is a public interest advocacy group that works to solve the environmental and energy challenges threatening the people, natural resources and communities in Maine and across New England. In Maine for almost four decades, CLF is a member-supported organization that works to ensure that laws and policies are developed, implemented and enforced that protect and restore our natural resources; are good for Maine's economy and environment; and equitably address the climate crisis.

LD 1730 will allow customers to combat energy unaffordability.

As electricity prices continue to skyrocket in Maine, and as energy burdens, or the percentage households spend on energy costs, rise, especially for low-income households, the plug-in solar development enabled by LD 1730 provides a means for customers to harness solar energy and combat energy unaffordability, recognizing that investment decisions will vary.

LD 1730 will increase grid reliability and customer autonomy.

It is well-established that solar energy resources developed pursuant to policies and programs in Maine and other New England states have significantly increased the reliability of the electric power system in Maine and New England. For instance, a study prepared for the regional grid operator, ISO New England, indicates that additions of behind-the-meter and utility-scale solar are critical to mitigating energy shortfall risks that result from significant winter load growth and retirements.¹ As the Public Utilities Commission Chair noted at the time, it was a "monumental" finding that the increased expansion of solar resources has strengthened grid reliability.²

For electric customers who do not own property, or otherwise lack control over their energy system, legislation like LD 1730 that permits plug-in solar enables individual customers to determine part of the source of their energy and thus increases customer autonomy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1730.

¹ ISO New England, "Operational Impact of Extreme Weather Events," December 11, 2023, https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/100006/operational_impact_of_extreme_weather_events_final_report.pdf, at 233.

² Benjamin Storrow, "Rooftop Solar was overlooked. Now it's closing a New England power plant," June 29, 2023, <https://www.eenews.net/articles/rooftop-solar-was-overlooked-now-its-closing-a-new-england-power-plant/>.