

Don Witherill
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January 5, 2026

Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair
Representative Melanie Sachs, Chair
Maine Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities & Technology (EUT)
Room 211 Cross Building
Augusta, ME 04333

RE: LD 1730, An Act to Make Small, Portable Plug-In Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All
Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and Members of the EUT Committee,

I am writing in favor of LD 1730. I am a retired state worker, having spent 42 years at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, including 33 years as a Division Director in the Bureau of Land and Water Quality. During the last few years of my time at DEP, I worked on revisions to the Maine Climate Action Plan. I understand the urgency for addressing climate change; we must take whatever steps we can to reduce our use of fossil fuels.

For many Maine residents, there is a desire to both reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to save money on their electric bills. For many, an array of rooftop solar panels is either not an affordable solution or it is not technically feasible due to siting constraints. The use of small, plug-in solar panels, while a small step in the big picture, is a tangible step in the migration to renewable energy, while at the same time, helping Maine residents offset some of their electricity needs.

It's important that we do all we can to move to renewable energy. LD 1730 is a step in the right direction. I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Don Witherill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "W".

Don Witherill