

To: Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
Subject: 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 Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

I am writing today to ask you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 1730: An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis.

There’s a solar revolution afoot and folks in Maine are being left out. As our electricity bills continue to rise, we in Maine are unable to take advantage of new technology that is benefiting consumers in Europe and in Utah. Plug-in solar (also called “portable solar” or “balcony solar”) is a low-cost scalable solution to the climate crisis and our high electricity bills. Similar to rooftop solar, plug-in solar can supply power to homes that are connected to the grid. Their small size, affordable cost, and ease of installation make plug-ins accessible to consumers for whom rooftop solar is not an option. (renters, folks whose roofs are not appropriate for solar panels, and those who cannot afford rooftop solar. Often the people most in need of relief from high electricity bills.)

By cutting unnecessary red tape and exempting small systems from rules designed for much larger arrays, the State of Maine can unlock immediate consumer savings and open the market to competition and innovation. This year 7 states, including our neighbors in New Hampshire and Vermont, are considering plug-in solar legislation. As more states clear the regulatory way for access to this technology, competition will lower the cost and innovation will improve the technology. In addition to lowering the cost of electricity, the adoption of plug-in solar will also improve public health. Widespread adoption could displace millions of metric tons of emissions annually, improving air quality for millions of people. (I think by now we can all agree that the less carbon we put into our atmosphere the better for all of us.)

We can look to Utah for an example of how a state reformed its regulations to clear the way for access to plug-in solar. In 2025, Utah passed [H.B. 340](#) with unanimous, bipartisan support. This budget-neutral regulatory reform lowers the cost of energy and expands access to affordable energy. It strengthens household resilience and energy independence.

If Utah can do it, we can too.

I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1730 for a less expensive and cleaner future for Mainers.