

Kat Taylor

Testimony in support of **LD 1730** *An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis*

Good Afternoon Esteemed EUT Committee:

My name is Kat Taylor and I am a resident and property owner in Argyle Twp., a small UT about 20 miles north of Bangor.

I am testifying today in support of LD1730, also known as the *Plug-in Solar* bill.

A synopsis of the amendment:

(AI generated so consider the source ;)

Plug-in Photovoltaic and Battery Systems

- *Defines "eligible systems" as plug-in photovoltaic or battery systems meeting specific safety and operational standards.*
- *Retail electricity customers can install and operate eligible systems at their service address, with capacity limitations set at 1,200 watts for grid export, and up to 2,000 watts with zero-export controls.*
- *Eligible systems are exempt from interconnection requirements and utility fees, and utilities cannot impose additional installation requirements.*
- *Insurance coverage for these systems is classified under standard homeowners or renters policies.*

Summary *The amendment facilitates the installation of **portable solar systems**, streamlining regulations and enhancing energy access for residents while ensuring safety and compliance with building codes.*

For over a year now I've been researching various battery storage systems recharged with solar. State's like CA and even TX have invested in solar with battery to provide Behind The Meter generation for grid reliability and lower ratepayer costs.

However, when these programs (ex: Virtual Power Plants) are *profit driven* the savings do not always add up to the hype. Sen. Grohoski's bill does include storage which makes plug-in solar a viable way to recharge storage using renewable clean energy. A step in the right direction.

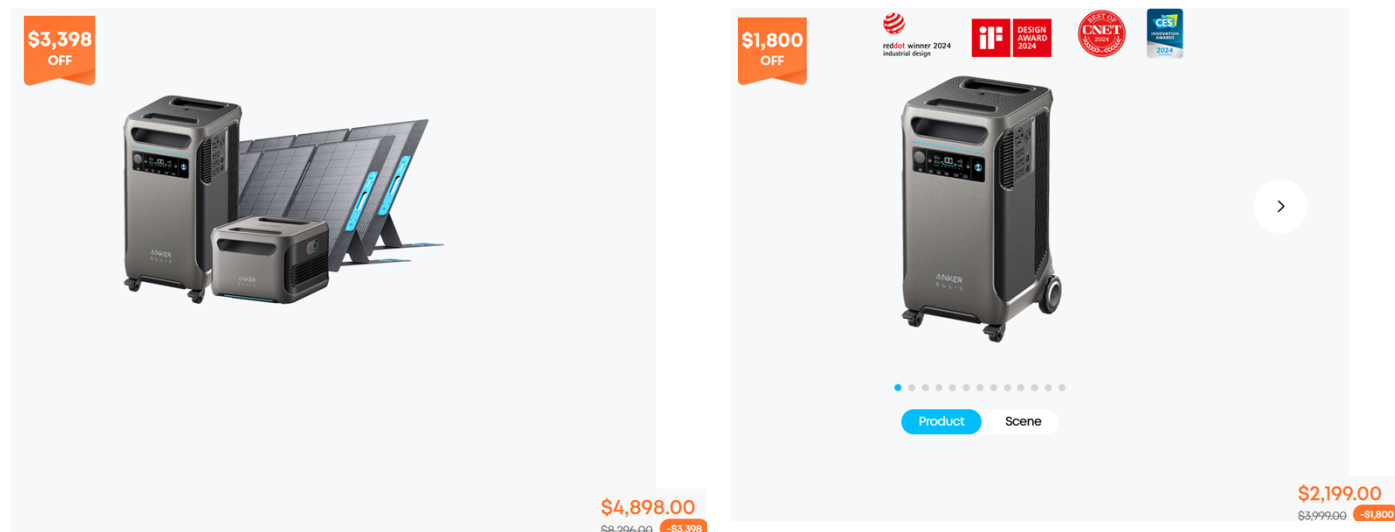
But solar stops working when the grid goes down. Adding a battery would store energy from the sun during outages and could provide grid support, if needed, when surplus energy is aggregated.

Seniors like me need alternatives to fossil fuels and electrification is daunting for us when the purchase and installation costs are so high. It would be nice if the state can

get behind informing Mainers that these portable units, both solar and storage, need no costly installation, recharge on solar or AC, and are eligible for rebates, tax breaks and bulk discounts.

Maine will never reach its goal of 100% electrification if rural residents cannot afford to make the switch. Let's not repeat the Net Energy Billing fiasco by making portable units ineligible for state incentives.

Whole house batteries like my [Anker Solix F3800](#) are currently priced at **\$2199 or less**. Adding solar and additional storage comes under **\$5k**.



A **pump storage project** in western Maine is estimated to **cost \$1B**. For that amount of money we could instead provide **204,165 to 454,545 ratepayers with energy security**.

(https://www.ankersolix.com/collections/power-stations?ref=footer_pps)

The Anker Solix line of products are portable, modular, expandable, can add on solar and smart house panels that are literally plug and play and they have built in inverters that adapt to multiple inputs and outputs, including EV's. While not advocating any specific brand, it is vitally important that the state include support for these types of battery systems that are within the budget of most Mainers.

The F3800 model fits my lifestyle and has proven invaluable. Since I first charge it up on July 1, 2025, during the heatwave, until last weekend, my town of Argyle has had over 14 outages, some multi-day and multiple events in the same day. Sometimes we were the only town in the Versant coverage area to lose power.

I do have a whole house gas powered generator that holds **5 gallons of gas** and will run **for 24 hours** on a full tank. My **F3800 takes 1.5 hours to charge back to full** which will give me **24+ hours of use**. So if necessary, my generator can provide me with **16 recharges or 384 hours using my battery system** vs. **24 hours** using my FF generator.

I can't begin to tell you how less stressful, and expensive, it is to have uninterrupted power for my computer station, lights and fans. The only way I know the power is out was when a lamp I have plugged into the wall goes out.

I plan to add more features like solar panels and expansion packs as I can. Eventually I will put in a panel to run the whole house from the sun-powered batteries. Having the option to add as I go makes these systems affordable and educates me on how much energy I use and actually need.

Running fossil fuel generators is expensive and dangerous. Every winter we hear stories of explosions, fires and asphyxiation not to mention that much of the energy generated by FF backup is not needed and the surplus is wasted.

Everyone I talk to about battery storage recharged by solar is interested. Battery storage and solar panels are getting more affordable every day so advisors are needed to help ratepayers choose a type of system that suits their needs and learn about any applicable incentives. The state should provide this support to save ratepayers money, ensure adequate backup energy supply and to include Mainers who cannot afford the transition on their own and reward those who can with financial incentives.

Right now, without any major investments in the grid, **not 5-15> years from now** when large scale commercial energy projects are permitted, protested against and finally, maybe, online at great expense to ratepayers, **the state could revolutionize the way rural and urban Mainers secure uninterrupted/backup energy, powered by the sun, that they can afford.**

Please vote Ought To Pass on LD 1730 so Mainers can finally have an affordable option to reduce their energy costs, transition away from fossil fuels and wean ourselves off the utility monopoly industry that only profits from new infrastructure so they can charge higher rates through the Return on Equity investment arrangement.

Thank You for your time and Thank You to Senator Grohoski for having the foresight to bring forward a sensible solution that has the potential for expansion into grid support and proven effective in other states and countries. Battery with solar, even without aggregation, is a way we can lower our power bills, stay connected, reduce our load on the grid and the use of fossil fuels.

Respectfully,

Kat Taylor
Argyle Twp.