



**Municipal
Solar
Partners**

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

Municipal Solar Partners Public Testimony

Public Hearing: An Act to Establish the Maine Clean Energy Authority

January 20, 2026

Submitted electronically

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is Jason Angell, and I submit this testimony in support of LD 838.

Municipal Solar Partners (MSP) is a non-profit solar development firm dedicated to partnering with municipalities and tribes to build municipally or tribally owned renewable energy or storage projects that maximize financial and social benefits to the local community. We are currently collaborating with the Maine Labor Climate Council and supporting the Mi'kmaq Nation's project to develop tribally owned solar and energy storage at their farm and fish hatchery in Presque Isle, ME to achieve their goals of greater energy and food sovereignty.

MSP's project team has over a decade of experience supporting the successful development and financing of over 500MW of renewable energy projects. Our experience has demonstrated that municipal or tribal ownership of projects can roughly double the community benefits realized by local communities as compared to conventionally developed projects, including deeper energy bill savings, new municipal revenues towards community projects, and the creation of high quality, union prevailing wage jobs.

We are writing this testimony in support of LD 838, a draft amendment to Establish the Maine Clean Energy Authority. The establishment of the Authority would give Maine an essential tool to plan, finance, and build the transmission and energy infrastructure needed to meet the state's established clean energy goals, greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and, maybe most importantly to sustain the work ahead, to demonstrate to Maine residents that the clean energy transition can reduce electricity costs and create quality, union jobs that support a good life.

We established MSP because our experience has taught us that who owns and develops a renewable energy project dictates where the benefits of the project flow. We believe that local ownership and control of projects means that more of the financial benefits will stay in the local community, instead of leaving with multinational developers or investors whose primary goal is maximizing private returns. Most of the municipalities or tribes we work with don't have solar

development expertise, so we provide it to help them build projects that serve the public interest.

But more than public interest driven solar development expertise is needed to successfully build projects that maximize economic benefits to residents and create good jobs. As a developer, you can structure a good project – secure the project site, make sure it will “pencil” financially, identify a clear permitting pathway, and build public support for it – but the project won’t ever get built without access to project financing and necessary grid infrastructure. And just as who owns a project will determine the level of financial benefits that flow to the public from it, who finances a project is equally as important.

The creation of the Maine Clean Energy Authority, with the ability to utilize low-cost revenue bonds to finance projects and leverage financing to require developers to deliver ratepayer savings and prevailing wage and apprenticeship jobs, would be a powerful tool to achieve the state’s goals. The difference in basis points between a Maine Clean Energy Authority lower cost bond-financed project and a conventionally financed project can be the difference between a project that can deliver significant public benefits or not. And improved grid infrastructure financed by Maine Clean Energy Authority will be essential to bring more clean, cheap generation online.

We are at an important tipping point in the climate and renewable energy transition. Successful renewable energy projects must not only deliver environmental benefits, they must deliver real economic benefits that are tangible in people’s lives and communities. The Maine Clean Energy Authority – and the financing of more municipally or tribally owned projects – can help do that.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JC".

Jason Angell
Municipal Solar Partners Team

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LD 838

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