

Jane Herbert
DAMARISCOTTA
LD 2174

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

My name is Jane Herbert. I am a full time resident of Damariscotta writing in strong opposition to LD 2174, as amended, titled “An Act to Increase Predictability in the Permitting of Renewable Energy Development.”

While I support renewable energy construction in Maine, this bill undermines municipal authority over local land use. The Maine Constitution guarantees communities a voice in local land use.

Local residents have personal experience and understanding of the environs that deserve consideration. Communities may desire to limit the size of solar farms or their impact on particular views. This is not just NIMBY - many Mainers depend upon tourism and visitors come because of the natural beauty we enjoy.

The power of local communities should not be usurped by pressure from business interests bent on filling the insatiable needs of Artificial Intelligence Data Centers or other energy hungry technologies on the one hand nor should local communities lack a voice in the siting and size of solar farms or wind turbines.

LD 2174 removes local control over renewable energy project land use and that is just not right.

Thank you for consideration of my testimony - not to pass LD 2174.

Jane Herbert