

Clayton McKay
Dixfield
LD 2174

Chair Tepler, Chair Doudera and Esteemed Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

I strongly oppose LD 2174 An Act to Replace the Maine Waterway Development and Conservation Act with the Maine Renewable Energy and Associated Transmission Development and Conservation Act.

The community where I live has adopted a Wind Ordinance and is adding the final touches to a Solar Ordinance. Many hours, discussions and community input shaped the belief that we had a well thought out, harmonic way to address solar and wind developments. LD 2174 will wipe away all of that work and our town will suffer the tyrannical, heavy hand of the state.

With 60% of the towns in Maine choosing local (home) rule over state intervention in solar, wind and battery development, it would be terrible for our towns to lose the sovereignty that has been with us since 1969.

Wind, solar and battery development will never replace the need for natural gas power plants in the regional network. Natural gas is now more valued by the ISO-NE than ever. New market reforms that reflect the balancing and flexibility that natural gas plants provide to increasing intermittent resources have become important reserve elements.

The EPA has rightfully struck down the declaration that carbon dioxide is a harmful pollutant. The very foundational element that has driven the "Renewable Onslaught" is gone. The unreachable goals to eliminate natural gas plants and replace them with 100% Renewables need to be repealed. Maine's participation in RGGI needs reform. NEB needs to be eliminated. PPAs need to stop. the REC market has to be ended. Efficiency Maine Trust has become a bloated bureaucracy and needs to be terminated. You, as leaders, must recognize the errors of your ways and bring Maine back from the edge of the energy cliff.

You must accept the reality that local voices dictate state policies and 60% of the organized political divisions are very clear. They want nothing to do with this proposed authoritative takeover of their wishes.

Drop this bill

Thank You Clayton McKay Dixfield