

Linda Swackhamer
Veazie
LD 2174

Greetings Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and Members of the ENR Committee:

My name is Linda Swackhamer, I live in Veazie, ME and I am writing in opposition to 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."

While I totally support renewable energy deployment in Maine, this bill represents a dangerous and unprecedented assault on municipal home rule authority, constitutional structure, and community-driven land use governance. This bill directly violates the Home Rule Guarantees in the Maine Constitution: "Each municipality ... shall have the right to exercise any function ... in the conduct of its local affairs except as prohibited by law." — Maine Constitution, Article VIII, Part Second.

This constitutional language affirms that our communities have the authority to regulate local land use, including the power to adopt standards more stringent than state minimums to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

LD 2174 explicitly overrides this constitutional guarantee for renewable energy project siting. Its repeated "notwithstanding any provision to the contrary" and "void and no force or effect" clauses are not ambiguous; they are categorical nullifications of municipal authority. This bill is not a mere regulatory tweak, it is a constitutional power grab. Blanket preemption is a bad energy policy. Renewable energy deployment is most successful when it is locally informed, predictable, and legally sustainable.

In conclusion, I repeat that I support renewable energy expansion. I do not support this constitutional overreach. LD 2174 in its current form undermines home rule, invites litigation, weakens community buy-in, and does not deliver the predictability it claims to provide. For these reasons, I strongly urge the Committee to oppose LD 2174 as drafted and to work instead on a balanced alternative that respects both state policy goals and municipal authority.

Thank you.