

Stephen Miller  
Islesboro  
LD 2174

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Steve Miller and I live in Islesboro Maine. I am testifying 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."

As a life-long Mainer active in environmental matters pretty much since my college years at the University of Maine when I spent a semester undertaking landscape and wildlife independent study while living in a cabin on Dodge Pond, Rangeley, I am painfully aware of the need to reduce carbon emissions and address climate change head-on.

I understand the good intentions of LD 2174 but take serious objection to those provisions in the proposed bill that would (1) eliminate local authority to oversee and regulate renewable energy land use proposals and (2) too-broadly force Maine DEP to quickly review and evaluate renewable energy proposals requiring DEP approval according to an arbitrary timeline.

Some renewable energy proposals will be of such significant scale and environmental impact that thorough review is absolutely necessary to avoid inadvertent harm. Thorough review may well take more than the proposed limited time. The bill should be amended to provide for more time to review large-scale renewable energy proposals.

Municipal review of such proposals can often provide local knowledge that should be incorporated into the decision-making process. Local authority is essential to decisions that truly represent the popular electorate. Removing local renewable energy permitting authority entirely would establish something like a totalitarian authority in the state DEP.

LD 2174 can be rewritten to accommodate these concerns.

Thank you.

Steve Miller