

Testimony Before the Joint Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee

February 26, 2026

2:00 p.m.

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

My name is Jeffrey Nathanson and I reside in Cumberland, Maine. I am writing to express my strong support for an amendment which, I am advised is contained in Section Z of LD 1966, sponsored by Representatives Warren and Kessler, to exempt (or otherwise protect) member-owned community solar farms owners from recent PUC rules limiting an individual's ownership to one interest in a member-owned community solar farm.

By way of background:

1. As more fully described below, I purchased an ownership interest in two member-owned community solar farms in Maine: one known as Curravale and the other as Sandy River.
2. Consistent with the State's policy regarding encouraging renewable energy development/usage, and in order to reduce my own carbon footprint at my primary residence in Cumberland, in 2021 I purchased an interest in Curravale developed and sold by ReVision Energy. As I anticipated buying an electric car in the coming years, I purchased slightly more capacity than I was then consuming.
3. In 2022, I purchased a condo located in Falmouth, Maine and installed heat pumps to reduce the carbon footprint of that unit. At the same time, I purchased an interest in Sandy River, also developed and sold by ReVision Energy, with 100% of the production serving the condo.
4. With the addition of the heat pumps at my condo, I underestimated the electricity usage when I initially sized my ownership interest in Sandy River. As a result, and in accordance with existing NEB rules at the time, I allocated apx. 20% of the production serving my residence in Cumberland to the condo in Falmouth.
5. The electric bills at both locations are in my name and both are part of the CMP grid.
6. My understanding is that the rule recently promulgated by the PUC was pursuant to certain changes contained in L.D. 1777, entitled: "An Act to Reduce Costs and Increase Customer Protections for the State's Net Energy Billing Programs" (emphasis added). I don't understand how preventing Maine homeowners like me who have, in good faith, purchased ownership interests in more than one member-owned community solar farm from receiving the benefit of the capacity they have

purchased increases customer protections. In fact, just the opposite; it feels like the rules effectively amount to a taking.

7. My further understanding was that the legislation was intended to apply to subscription services and not to member-owned community solar farms. My fee simple ownership in two member-owned community solar farms is not based on a subscription service, rather, I made a significant investment upfront in solar to reduce my carbon footprint, consistent with the State's goal of encouraging renewables and achieving 80% of its electricity from renewables by 2030.

Respectfully, I would encourage the Committee to support the amendment under consideration to exempt member-owned community solar farms from the recent PUC regulations or, at a minimum, grandfather existing ownership so that the new rules do not apply retroactively.

Thank you for the Committee's consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Nathanson