



Testimony in support of LD417 filed by Senator Vitelli

An Act to Facilitate Net Energy Billing

March 2, 2023

Chair Lawrence, Chair Zeigler and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

My name is Carolyn Dykema and I am the Director of Northeast Policy for Nexamp, a clean energy company with offices in Portland, ME and headquartered in Boston, MA. I submit this testimony in support of LD417, *An Act to Facilitate Net Energy Billing* filed by Senator Vitelli.

Nexamp is the largest owner-operator of community solar assets in the country, and we believe in the community solar model which allows all Mainers to share in the benefits of solar power even if they can't install a rooftop solar system on their home. Our subscribers are enthusiastic proponents of clean energy who are excited that their subscriptions are actively helping drive Maine's clean energy transition. Among our current Maine subscribers are residents, schools, municipalities, non-profits, and small businesses who are seeing meaningful savings annually on their electricity bills at a time when energy costs are higher than ever.

Central to the community solar customer experience is the customer's electric bill. Customers receive a share of the energy savings generated by a community solar facility through NEB credits purchased at a discount, and these credits are then applied to the subscriber's monthly electric bill, resulting in overall annual savings for the customer.

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101 Summer Street, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

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The concept is relatively simple, but successful implementation and subscriber satisfaction are highly dependent on timely and accurate exchange of information between the utility and solar project sponsors like Nexamp. Since Nexamp began serving NEB customers last year, it's become clear that improved information-sharing with the utilities is needed to provide the highest quality, transparent customer experience that the legislature, our subscribers, and our company expect.

This legislation will help achieve that goal by clarifying that data related to a customer's energy use belongs to that customer and can be shared by a utility with a solar provider at a subscriber's request for the purpose of administering a community solar subscription. It also requires information be shared by a utility more frequently and in a manner consistent with modern technological standards, and proposes additional changes to improve the customer experience for all NEB subscribers in Maine.

We appreciate the willingness of Central Maine Power and Versant Power to further discuss the proposals in this legislation as we seek a common path forward toward a billing approach that provides the highest quality experience for all Maine NEB subscribers.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. I welcome the opportunity to provide any additional information that may be of interest to the Committee.

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