



## Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony of Kelt Wilska, Energy Justice Manager, Maine Conservation Voters  
Before the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee

In Support of LD 952

*An Act to Create a 21st-Century Electric Grid*

April 13, 2023

Good afternoon Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. My name is Kelt Wilska and I am the Energy Justice Manager at Maine Conservation Voters, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Maine's environment, democracy, and climate future. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of LD 952, An Act to Create a 21st-Century Electric Grid.

Maine prides itself in being a national leader in the clean energy transition. Governor Mills has advanced the goal of 100% clean energy in Maine from 2050 to 2040. The State is ahead of schedule in meeting its goal of 100,000 electric heat pump installations by 2025. This bill presents another groundbreaking opportunity for Maine to lead in the clean energy transition by becoming the first state in the nation to establish a Distributed System Operator, or DSO. By establishing a DSO after a comprehensive third-party analysis, Maine can more efficiently tackle the climate crisis and answer the urgent call for action on our electricity grid that so many Mainers have been voicing.

New England's Independent System Operator, ISO-NE, has the obligation following FERC Order 2222 to allow distributed generators such as rooftop solar panels access to wholesale electricity markets. By operating its own open-access distributed generation market, Maine's DSO could function as an aggregator for distributed generators, delivering to ISO-NE an efficient solution for determining how to bring innovative renewable electricity solutions to our grid at least cost.

There is a resounding community spirit in our state, a desire to look out for our neighbors and care for our environment, and this is reflected in many Mainers' choices to install rooftop solar panels and small-scale battery storage on their homes and make the leap to electric vehicles. A DSO makes the most of these conscious consumer choices and efficiently aggregates them for use in Maine and beyond, all the while ensuring a robust Integrated Distribution Planning (IDP)

process that brings together load management, traditional poles and wires, and non-wire alternatives under one entity.

Maine Conservation Voters sees a DSO as a powerful step forward in harnessing our state's distributed generation potential and strongly supports this process to tailor its functions to the unique needs of our state. We urge you to support LD 952.