

Adam Frederick
04/13/2023

Members of the Committee,

I am here today to express my opposition to this short-sighted, and woefully ill-advised act. I find it alarming that members of the once-great Republican party now stand in direct opposition of the values of independence, security, personal agency, self-reliance, fairness and equity, people before profits, and conservation of our unparalleled natural resources, as evidenced by this Act.

Repealing net-metering policies would absolutely discourage future investments in renewable energy, ultimately hindering our ability to meet climate goals, protect public health, and promote economic growth. 2% of the nation has adopted solar, and 50% of that is in California. That leaves 1% adoption of solar across the other 49 states. We are in the beginning stages of electrification, and fair policies regarding renewables adoption are critical to preserving God-given Life on Earth. The emergency you mention in this Act is not rising rates, it is rising seas and temperatures.

Climate Change is a hoax, you may say. Fine. Passing this Act will harm the thousands of families, businesses, and communities who have already made significant investments in solar energy. It is unfair to penalize customers who invest in renewable energy systems by repealing net-metering or raising rates for everyone. If the utility needs to recover their costs, they can explore alternative pricing mechanisms that better reflect the true cost of maintaining the grid, rather than punishing those future-focussed ratepayers.. Tiered rate structures may be a good place to start. Without a fair net-metering relationship with the distribution grid, all ratepayers become subjects of the CMP empire. Gone would be this brief expression of energy freedom and symbiosis with the utility. You've limited the energy freedom of Mainers to side with an un-creative utility.

Maine's current net-metering policies have fostered innovation and tremendous local job growth, driving us towards a more sustainable future. Trade schools are developing solar installer and solar electrician programs to help usher in the new energy paradigm. Any changes to our net-metering policy could disrupt this growth trend, resulting in unnecessary economic turmoil and slowing our progress to a sustainable and equitable future. In other states, low solar rates and elimination of net metering have led to job loss, stalled economic growth, decreased investment interest from outside entities, and prolonged public health issues associated with air pollution from coal and gas plants.

We must prioritize our future and keep supporting, developing and onboarding clean energy programs. We must continue to invest in renewables to ensure that we are leaving our children and grandchildren and grandchildren grandchildren's grandchildren with a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Repeal of our net-metering policies is anti-American. If we want to Make America Great, at all, we must do away with corporate politicking that denies We The People access to these energy freedoms and liberties, and we must hold our utilities and monopolies to fair and reasonable relationships with their clients. Thank you for your time and consideration.