



TO The Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
FROM Glenvale LLC
DATE May 10, 2023

RE: Testimony regarding LD 1881, "An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws"

Dear Chairs Ingwersen, Pluecker and Committee Members,

On behalf of Glenvale LLC, we want to thank you for your continued leadership in Maine's land conservation

Glenvale develops large solar energy projects. Five projects in Maine have Power Purchase Agreements from the Tranche 1 and 2 procurements. These projects total approximately 200 MW which is equivalent to providing energy for about 37,000 homes. The Projects are in Buxton, Baldwin, Hiram, Topsham, Warren and Turner. They will provide \$60M of in-state and local benefits and about 200 construction jobs over the life of the projects. With energy rates starting below \$0.04/kwh, meaningful savings will be delivered to ratepayers. The first projects to start construction will commence in 2024.

Glenvale is committed to supporting the growth of the clean energy economy in Maine and across the region. However, Glenvale opposes LD 1881 for the following reasons:

1. The bill appears to apply to projects irrespective of project status. Projects that have either received permits to construct or have awarded or executed energy contracts prior to the completion of the rulemaking process, would incur unanticipated costs, at a time of inflation and increased interest rates that could result in them being unfinanceable and subsequently cancelled. This would forfeit the energy rate savings to Maine ratepayers.



- 2 The bill directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection to initiate a rulemaking process by December 31, 2023. The bill does not direct the departments to complete the rulemaking process by a date certain. If developers know when rules will take effect and have assurance that projects receiving permits or contracts prior to a date certain, would be waived of fees, then projects will have a better chance of being completed and at lower cost to ratepayers.

We encourage the legislature to enact a bill that supports both goals of advancing in-state clean energy and conservation of Maine's agricultural lands.

Glenvale thanks the Committee and is available to answer any questions about our response or projects. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tyler Holmquist
Senior Development Project Manager
Glenvale LLC