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## **Maureen Fitzgerald Terry**

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*Testimony of Rep. Maureen Terry in support of*  
**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**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry*

Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker and esteemed members of the Agriculture and Conservation Committee I am Maureen Terry, representing part of Gorham in House District 108 I am happy to be here to speak in support of **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.**

We can all agree that we need to develop alternative sources of energy if we want our planet to continue to be healthy and habitable for years to come But like with any new industry or development project, that work should be done thoughtfully

LD 1881 seeks to create a new regulatory structure for renewable energy generation projects, including wind and solar as well as transmission lines At the heart of this bill, as I understand it, is a desire to meet our climate goals by shifting to renewable energy without compromising the integrity of our natural lands This bill would do that by charging an upfront mitigation fee to clean energy developers to help offset any potential impacts that the projects may have on the local soil, wildlife and fisheries

Not only does this bill help compensate for the negative impacts of large solar and wind energy projects and high impact transmission lines, it also provides developers with predictability and

consistency Adding this cost up front means that developers won't have to be surprised at the end of the project with hidden fees or last minute impact evaluations This ensures that they can properly plan and budget for their projects, which is not only more attractive, but ultimately better for a successful development

By implementing this strategy, it ensures that private-public partnerships have the space to do what they do best Developers know what they can expect to have to pay, and the public can count on those dollars coming through to help protect the fragile biodiversity of local soils, wildlife, wetlands and fisheries

I'd like to add that this bill would not take away farmers' rights to lease their land to developers for renewable energy projects It just gives greater clarity to developers and landowners about what implementation will look like It removes uncertainty, giving everyone the information they need to make the most informed decisions This is good for our carbon footprint, for the health and wellbeing of our natural resources and local biodiversity, for developers who will know what to expect and for the farmers and landowners who will still be able to benefit financially from these projects

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill