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***Testimony of Rep. Maureen Terry in support of
LD 1850, An Act Relating to Energy Storage and the State's Energy Goals
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology***

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and esteemed colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, I am Maureen Terry, representing part of Gorham in House District 108. I am pleased to offer testimony in support of **LD 1850, An Act Relating to Energy Storage and the State's Energy Goals.**

In the 130th Legislature I introduced legislation, which has since become law, to incentivize companies who own energy storage facilities to come and set up shop right here in Maine. At that time, Maine only had a few, small energy storage facilities, but the need for this technology was growing. Energy prices were rising to an all-time high and individual consumers and all ratepayers pay more under our current system, which is not well-equipped to manage peaks in demand. As renewable energy production becomes a greater part of our overall energy supply chain – which we undoubtedly want and are working towards – we need to ensure that we can manage the consequences of spikes in supply which inevitably occurs with renewable energy.

We know that these peaks require the grid to generate and distribute large amounts of energy for short amounts of time, resulting in a larger, less efficient and more costly energy infrastructure. This cost is distributed to all ratepayers, though consumers who pay demand charges are especially impacted.

Today, with even more growth in solar and wind power across the state, it is imperative that Maine has the equipment and technology to support this growth and to get as much out of that clean energy as possible. LD 1850 establishes a framework that will help us accomplish this.

LD 1850 has many components, as we have learned, including modifying our current energy storage capacity goals and providing flexibility to the Governor's Energy Office in updating our

storage capacity goals upward as we attract new development and realize greater growth in the industry. It also authorizes the GEO and the PUC to design a program enabling energy utility companies to work with this energy storage industry to better facilitate distribution and transmission of clean energy. This will help keep rates stable for all customers because energy will be stored and deployed when it's needed.

In recent years, state policy has affirmed a commitment to renewable sources of energy, but a complementary policy encouraging energy storage capacity has not yet materialized. This bill seeks to establish that policy framework, enabling us to keep up with other New England states, and keeping us on track to support and develop the infrastructure needed to meet Maine's aggressive renewable energy goals by 2030 and into the future.