



Maine Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

**Written Testimony of Key Capture Energy in Support of LD 1850 – An Act Relating to Energy Storage
and the State’s Energy Goals**

May 16, 2023

Dear Chair Lawrence, Chair Zeigler, and Members of the Committee

My name is Paul Williamson, Senior Manager of Development – ISONE for Key Capture Energy. Key Capture Energy (“KCE”) supports the passage of LD 1850 to establish an energy storage target and investigate opportunities to procure energy storage systems. This bill will take an important step towards putting Maine on track to meeting its clean energy and climate goals.

KCE is an Albany, New York-based battery energy storage developer, owner, and operator, focusing on development of utility-scale, stand-alone energy storage projects at both the distribution and transmission level.

Maine’s passage of LD 528 in 2021 and its energy storage target of 300 MW by 2025 has set the state for rapid development of energy storage. KCE has accelerated our development activity in the state, and we are committed to bringing storage to Maine. Our CEO, Jeff Bishop, served on the 2019 Commission to Study the Economic, Environmental and Energy Benefits of Energy Storage to the Maine Electricity Industry, and we have been active stakeholder participants in the Maine Governor’s Energy Office’s Energy Storage Assessment.

Energy storage will provide a number of critical services as Maine pursues its clean energy and climate goals, most importantly shifting energy from times of high renewable energy production and low energy demand to periods of low energy renewable production and high energy demand.

LD 1850 would provide a pathway for the Maine Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”) to conduct competitive procurements and offer long-term contracts to bring large-scale energy storage systems online in Maine. KCE has found that such contracts are the most cost-effective way to ensure that projects can be financed and built at scale. Additionally, Section 6 of LD 1850 directs the Commission to establish the conditions under which utilities may own energy storage systems. KCE recommends that this language not pre-judge that utility ownership is appropriate.

Utility-scale (also called “large-scale” or “front-of-the-meter”) energy storage systems will play a major role if Maine is to capture the benefits of energy storage. Nationally, utility-scale storage makes up the vast majority of new deployments, accounting for 84% of the total capacity of energy storage installed in



the US in the first three quarters of 2022 ¹ Utility-scale energy storage systems have several advantages, including lower costs from economies of scale and the ability to leverage revenues from direct participation in the regional wholesale market run by ISO New England

Utility-scale storage systems can either be co-located with renewable energy projects, or be sited independently as stand-alone assets. Stand-alone energy storage assets offer unique advantages, as they require a tiny fraction of the land necessary for renewable energy facilities such as solar farms and can be sited where the energy is needed most. LD 1850 appropriately allows the Governor's Energy Office and the Commission to consider either standalone storage or storage systems that are co-located with renewable energy in any procurement.

KCE strongly supports LD 1850 and encourages the Committee to advance the bill.

¹ US Energy Storage Monitor Q4 2022, Wood Mackenzie, December 2022
<https://www.woodmac.com/reports/power-markets-us-energy-storage-monitor-q4-2022-150088121/>