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Senator Mark Lawrence, Senate Chair  
Representative Stanley Paige Zeigler, House Chair  
Committee Members on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

## LD 1986, An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Members of the EUT committee,

This statement provides written comments from Sundog Solar LLC in support of LD 1986.

Sundog Solar and our hard working company of 32 employees has been operating out of Midcoast Maine since 2009. We offer photovoltaic, energy storage, heat pump and EV charging technologies, turnkey developments and installations to residential and commercial customers. We share the goal of our customers and ratepayers in reducing their energy costs and offer real solutions to this problem on a daily basis.

We're testifying in support of LD 1986 as this is a clear and simple bill that evolves the existing net energy billing program into a successor program that fosters the foundational intent of net energy billing. As we know, net energy billing is a critical and working instrument in bringing distributed generation and renewable energy projects onto the grid meeting the market demand for clean, reliable and affordable energy to all Maine ratepayers. LD 1986 largely focuses on surfacing the "Benefits" of net energy billing and not just the "costs". Through multiple studies conducted specifically for Maine on the the benefits and costs of Net Energy Billing, it has been shown consistently in that the benefits include reduced supply and transmission costs as well as positive grid upgrades. What we don't know here in Maine is what the net benefits and costs to the NEB program look like together, likely resulting in net benefits over costs. This concept of "Benefit" over "Cost" is why this industry exists worldwide.

Being in the trenches of the renewable energy transition on a daily basis, provides a very real experience of the need for stability and regularity within the regulatory environment. The past several years have been the most difficult years of operation for our company in the state of Maine within the current regulatory environment. What's missing is consistency, durability and reliability to the process. Ratepayers need certainty that their investments made today will be realized in future years and protected. The NEB program at large has to evolve and not



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digress. The need for a smart and evolved NEB program is clear, and the solution is only to move forwards and not backwards.

We have real solutions at our fingertips that this bill points to as guidance, such as the report generated by the solar industry DG 2.0 working group. The smart report that the group released gave recommendations for a future program providing regulatory certainty to developers and ongoing clear benefits to ratepayers. Our company is behind this as we experience the real need for this type of program evolution.

Thank you for providing this forward thinking solution that provides industry clarity and certainty for past and future projects. We urge you to please support the passage of LD 1986. Thank you.

Danny Piper  
Owner  
Sundog Solar LLC