



STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission
Neither For Nor Against
LD 2099, An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable
Energy Projects

January 23, 2024

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology (Committee), my name is Deirdre Schneider, testifying neither for nor against LD 2099, An Act to Make Changes to Certain Laws Governing Renewable Energy Projects on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

Last session Public Law 2023, chapter 411 (Act) was enacted and created the Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Program to be developed by the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) in order to provide funding to foster the continued growth of cost-effective distributed solar facilities and energy storage systems in the State. The Act specified that except for some ratepayer funds that could be used to assist the GEO in the administration of the program (funding from the Commission's Regulatory Fund), no other ratepayer funds could be used to implement the program or provide funding under the program.

LD 2099 would allow the use of ratepayer funds to implement the program or provide funding under the program with approval from the Commission. Specifically, LD 2099 requires the Commission to approve the use of ratepayer funds if the Commission finds the use of these funds is reasonably likely to achieve net benefits to ratepayers. The Commission has the ability to undertake a ratepayer benefit analysis, and this will not result in the need for any additional staff.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information for the work session.