

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sacks, and members of the committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

My name is Paul Davis. I am here to support LD32 and LD257. Both these bills would repeal what is known as Net Energy Billing.

Why should this be repealed? I believe that Net Energy Billing results in cross subsidization where non-solar customers, particularly low-income households of which Piscataquis County has many, are left to shoulder the costs. This creates an unfair burden to those folks that cannot afford their own renewable energy systems.

Net Energy billing has caused some people to rely on other sources of energy. I know of one small sawmill the owner told me that he can buy oil and run his generator cheaper than he can buy electricity from the power company.

Maine has among the highest electricity in the United States. Simple put in any search engine the costs of electricity and Maine will be in the top five most expensive in the U.S.

I believe that there are other ways to encourage solar power and other renewable energy without relying on net energy billing. Direct incentives, rebates for solar installation and more equitable renewable credit schemes can without unfairly burdening the wider population. If Net Energy is repealed rate for everyone in Maine will go down.