

Testimony of Donald W. McLean DVM in Opposition of

LD 32: An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing, LD 257: An Act to Eliminate the Practice of Net Energy Billing: LD 359 An Act to Prohibit Net Energy Billing by Certain Customers, LD 450: An Act to Lower Electricity Costs by Repealing the Laws Governing Net Energy Billing, LD 515: An Act to Reverse Recent Changes Made to the Law Governing Net Energy Billing and Distributed Generation

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. I am Don McLean from Norway, Maine. Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to oppose **Acts to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing**.

I am a veterinarian serving western Maine as well as the Vice President of Maine Community Power Cooperative. I'm here to defend Net Energy Billing because it is a great benefit to my family and community.

I lived off grid for decades. In order to have sufficient electricity through the short days of late fall and early winter, I had to oversize my array. On sunny days my batteries would be full within a few hours and the rest of the power from the sun had no use. With Net Energy Billing I'm able to put the surplus electricity into the grid and share it with my father and my partner's parents. Ending Net Energy billing ends this form of help families, friends and neighbors can give to each other.

I have two customers actively farming with agrivoltaics. They provide mowing services by grazing sheep under and around the arrays. They produced about 200 market lambs last year and plan to expand their operations. They are producing high quality, high value food for Mainers while helping to maintain the arrays. It is a win-win. This ends without Net Energy Billing.

Maine has no native fossil fuels. It must be imported. Relying on outside supplies leaves us susceptible to market fluctuations. Producing our own energy from solar, wind, hydro, and other sources promotes a stable business environment which WE control, not outsiders. Speaking of outsiders, Central Maine Power, which is owned by Spaniards, has pulled hundreds of millions of dollars from Maine. If the intent of ending Net Energy Billing is to reduce costs for Mainers perhaps stopping that hemorrhage would help more.

The climate crisis is real and happening now. It will get worse, much worse if we continue to burn fossil fuel. As a doctor and first responder, I see we are in an existential crisis. If we don't do everything in our power, we will cease to exist.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald W. McLean DVM

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