

To: The Honorable Mark K. Lawrence  
The Honorable Melanie F. Sachs  
Members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee

Date: 27 February 2025

Re: 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

I'm Ted Colburn, a Vietnam Veteran, and my wife and I have farm in Waterford in the same house my mother was born.

I am speaking in OPPOSITION to the following legislative bills LD32, LD 257, LD359, LD450 and LD515

Solar panels help to provide electricity to our farm through the net billing program.

Net Energy Billing is a positive investment for Maine. It makes it possible for Mainers to invest their hard-earned money into developing a cleaner, more resilient place to live with reduced reliance on out of state and out of country influences.

By an independent analysis by Sustainable Energy Advantage, LLC for the MPUC dated 1 April 2024, Maine receives more from the investment in NEB than it expends.

The homeowner, farmer, or whomever has the solar panels receives benefit by having the power systems serve as a battery, but also the power company receives a benefit by receiving power when the sun is shining. When this occurs at peak demand times the solar source is at a lower cost than the peak generation costs and thus saves ratepayers. For example, occurs during a summer "brownout" situation.

The power can be used more locally where it is produced reducing the electrical load on the distribution network.

The investment in solar around the state brings good jobs to Mainers.

Solar around the state improves air quality by reducing combustion generation of electricity. Where combined with EVs, or heat pumps, solar can reduce community levels of hydrocarbons in the local air.

Additionally, I am volunteering on the founding board of a local community power initiative. The initiative, the MCPC (Maine Community Power Cooperative) has the objective to have at least half of its subscriber-members be low- or medium-income families, and earnings generated be returned to the members once the system is operating sufficiently. Solar in Maine is not just for those that have good exposure to the sun, or have deep pockets, and the economic benefits and power can stay in Maine and stay with ratepayers.

I ask that you keep NEB alive and well and keep the property tax exemption continuing. It's the prudent thing to do for all Mainers.

Thank you for listening and thank you for your dedication to Maine.