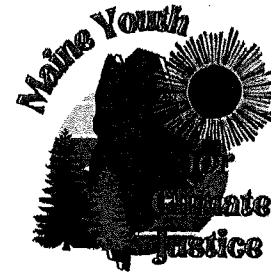


To: Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
From: Jackson Chadwick, Maine Youth for Climate Justice  
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025



RE: Testimony in opposition to L.D. 32: "An Act to Repeal the Laws Regarding Net Energy Billing," L.D. 257: "An Act to Eliminate the Practice of Net Energy Billing," L.D. 450: "An Act to Lower Electricity Costs by Repealing the Laws Governing Net Energy Billing," and L.D. 515: "An Act to Reverse Recent Changes Made to the Law Governing Net Energy Billing and Distributed Generation"

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, my name is Jackson Chadwick. I am the Advocacy Director at Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ), a statewide coalition of more than 500 youth advocating for a just transition away from fossil fuels and toward a cleaner, more sustainable, and livable future.

Our organization opposes each of these bills, which would all restrict or repeal the laws regarding Net Energy Billing (NEB). These bills would disenfranchise thousands of Mainers who currently benefit from the NEB program and de-incentivize thousands more who are looking to solar energy each year as a more economical and sustainable form of electricity.

To meet Maine's climate goals, various renewable energy sources are required to transition our state away from fossil fuel usage. Solar energy is one of these important sources. NEB allows Maine households enrolled in community solar programs to accumulate kilowatt-hour (kWh) credits that can be applied against future kWh usage, thus saving consumers money.

A 2024 report<sup>1</sup> prepared for the Public Utilities Commission found that the benefits of the NEB program outweighed the costs by a 1.29 ratio, with benefits totaling 127.82 million dollars in 2023. Eliminating this program is not the solution to curb rising electricity costs. Thousands of households across your districts would lose their solar energy benefits - benefits many have received for years.

As a youth climate justice organization, our members acknowledge that climate change will most affect our generations. Ensuring that programs like NEB are available to the Maine public is critical as our state adapts to a changing climate.

For the reasons above, the 500+ members of Maine Youth for Climate Justice respectfully urge you to oppose L.D. 32, L.D. 257, L.D. 450, and L.D. 515.

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<sup>1</sup>Sustainable Energy Advantage, LLC. (See Page 21)  
<https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/sites/maine.gov/mpuc/files/inline-files/Solar%20-Y2023%20-CBA%20-%20LD%20327.pdf>