

Chairs Lawrence and Sachs, Ranking Member Foster –

My name is Nick Lacasse, I’m a proud 5th generation Mainer and co-owner of Perennial Renewables LLC.

Perennial is a solar project developer and general contractor located in Hallowell, ME.

Much has been said about solar developers only being from out of state. I stand here to say, very proudly, my solar development business is based in Hallowell. We cannot just pick up and leave the State of Maine.

In 2024, Perennial developed and built a total of 2 megawatts of Net Energy Billing projects.

Every single one of these projects is located Kennebec County, owned by people or businesses that are in Kennebec County, and 100% of labor was from contractors located in Kennebec County.

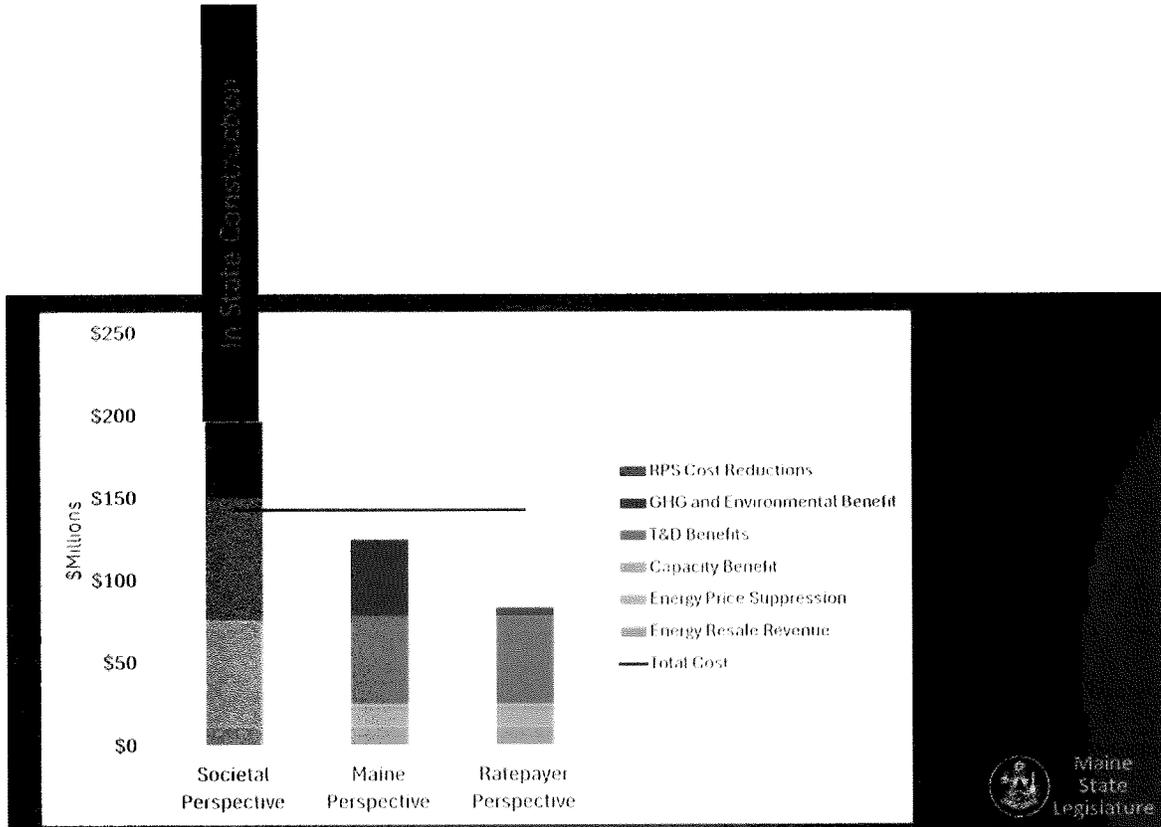
Here is a cost breakdown of an upcoming 500kW solar project located right here in the City of Augusta:

Solar Project Construction Cost (500kW - Augusta Community Solar)		\$1,395,838	% of Total
Out of State Costs	\$	366,609	26%
In State Costs	\$	1,029,229	74%

In State Costs (\$1,029,229)	
Earthwork	\$ 373,136
Electrical	\$ 285,000
Power Line Construction	\$ 55,661
Mechanical Labor	\$ 65,092
Engineering	\$ 57,660
Project Management	\$ 150,000
Project Management	\$ 42,680

Stays in Maine	\$	1,029,229	73.74%
Stays in Kennebec County	\$	1,014,569	72.69%

If we mapped the construction benefits of the 240MW of NEB projects placed the PUC's chart that was shown earlier this session to you, it would look like this: \$245M.



Assumptions:

- Build Cost: \$2.00/DC Watt Construction Cost.
- 73.7% of costs stay in state based on Perennial example project on Page 1
 - o 30.0% haircut to this, because not all labor has been from in state.

I cannot blame any legislator for taking an honest look at energy costs – the people of Scarborough, the people of Dexter, do not expect any less from you.

However, when there is legislation on the table that means broken contracts for our subcontractors relying on our payments, offtakers without the power savings they've budgeted for, and bankruptcy for my company – without any focus on a solution at all, or comprehension of the changes already made – it's hard as a business owner to take any other action besides speaking out.

We require thoughtful energy legislation to increase jobs, raise in-state power production, and lower costs.

