

**Testimony of the Industrial Energy Consumer Group
In Regard 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, L.D. 359, An Act to Prohibit Net Energy Billing by Certain Customers and L.D. 515, An Act to Reverse Recent Changes Made to the Law Governing Net Energy Billing and Distributed Generation

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

February 27, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:

My name is Tony Buxton of Preti Flaherty, and I am testifying for the Industrial Energy Consumer Group. IECG has two messages to convey to you about Net Energy Billing today.

First, because we have fought to limit and repeal Net Energy Billing (NEB) for five years, we know a great deal about NEB and how it works. We are happy to work with interested parties and the committee to change NEB.

Second, NEB is causing great harm to certain ratepayers, not just due to its huge cost, but also because of how it is rate designed, that is, how the costs are shared among customers. You cannot fix these harmful effects legislatively without repeal of NEB. Since repeal is unlikely, the best available solution is the compromise rate design change now before the Commission in Docket No. 2024-00137. The compromise will solve the unintentional and absurd harm to McCrum in Aroostook and similar serious harm to other groups of ratepayers, and it will relieve Maine's 30,000 truly low-income ratepayers of the burden of NEB stranded costs. The best thing that can be done if NEB remains alive is for the Commission to approve the compromise. The compromise is proposed by the Public Advocate, Competitive Energy Services, IECG and most of the intervening renewable generators in the case. No party opposes the compromise. These

real-world threats to ratepayers caused by the cost of NEB can be resolved without any legislation if the Commission just trusts the judgment of its constituent ratepayers.

I would be pleased to answer questions.