



Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

March 4, 2025

Re: Public Hearing, LD 444, *An Act to Lower Energy Costs by Repealing the Law Setting Out the State's Goals for Consumption of Electricity from Renewable Resources*

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in opposition to LD 444, *An Act to Lower Energy Costs by Repealing the Law Setting Out the State's Goals for Consumption of Electricity from Renewable Resources*, on behalf of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA). MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable energy producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. Our member companies include wind, solar, hydropower, biomass, and tidal energy generators and developers of such projects, as well as companies that provide services to those producers, such as environmental engineers, electricians, and general contractors.

LD 444 repeals the law establishing Maine's goals for consumption of electricity from renewable resources. Specifically, that by January 1, 2030 80% of retail sales of electricity in the State will come from renewable resources and that by January 1, 2050, 100%.

MREA opposes LD 444 because Maine's renewable energy goals, enshrined in State law, send a strong signal to developers and financial markets about the attractiveness of Maine as a place to invest in renewable energy. Energy generation projects often take several years and several million dollars of investment from conception to operation. Demonstration of a state's interest through statutory goals imbues confidence in those making long term, large scale investments.

Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) and associated competitive procurement processes move Maine incrementally and cost effectively toward these renewable energy goals. Maine's RPS – in pursuit of the goals that this legislation seeks to repeal – has supported renewable development and operation resulting in over \$100 million in direct investment, approximately \$900 million in operations and maintenance spending, and over 1,000 full-time equivalent jobs yielding over \$1 billion in worker income between 2008 and 2022. This is

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precisely the economic investment that the goals signal Maine desires. LD 444, should it be enacted, would undoubtedly tamper that spending and job creation.

Thank you for your consideration of MREA's testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eliza Donoghue". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Eliza" written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Donoghue".

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.
Executive Director