



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

March 13, 2025

Re: Public Hearing, LD 342 *An Act to Include Nuclear Power in the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard*

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

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in opposition to LD 342, *An Act to Include Nuclear Power in the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard*, 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 92 would include a source of electrical generation relying on a nuclear power plant constructed after January 1, 2025 in the definition of a “renewable capacity resource” and “renewable resource” and therefore include electrical generation relying on a nuclear power plant as a Class I resource for the purpose of the portfolio supply source requirements in Maine’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). MREA opposes this bill because as drafted it contravenes the intent and proven positive outcomes of Maine’s RPS. However, MREA is open to zero-carbon dispatchable thermal generation - like nuclear - playing a narrow role in meeting Maine’s clean energy goals.

Maine law requires that “prior to the construction of any nuclear power plant within the State, the question of approving that construction must be submitted to the voters of the State....”<sup>1</sup> This requirement, coupled with general public concern about the safety and cost of nuclear facilities (notably, concern that anecdotally appears to be lessening), that any qualifying resource would likely be constructed out of state. Maine’s RPS as currently written is achieved primarily by in-state renewable energy generation - generation that has benefited Maine’s economy a great deal.

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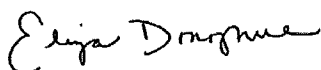
<sup>1</sup> See 35-A M.R.S. § 4302(1) (2025).

Specifically, a 2024 independent study commissioned by the Maine Governor's Energy Office in collaboration with the Maine Public Utilities Commission found that, "The RPS 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."<sup>2</sup> The RPS is achieving its intended result of spurring economic development in Maine, encouraging the development of new renewable energy resources like solar and wind and supporting existing renewable energy resources like hydropower and biomass, while advancing Maine toward its renewable energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. Solar and wind are being built and are operating in Maine *right now*. Hydropower and biomass are operating in Maine *right now*. The urgent need for new power generation demands that we double down on building new and supporting existing generation in the state.

That said, MREA acknowledges that certain clean energy sources such as zero-carbon dispatchable thermal generation (like nuclear power) may play a role in achieving Governor Mills' 100% *clean* electricity by 2040 target<sup>3</sup> (which we support) and in lowering the cost of Maine's transition to renewable energy.<sup>4</sup> We look forward to further engagement with the Committee and other stakeholders on exploring a narrow role for the likes of nuclear power to play in achieving Maine's clean energy objectives that is complimentary to Maine's existing RPS.

For these reasons and more, MREA encourages the Committee to vote "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 342 and we look forward to pursuing policies in which nuclear plays a more narrow, supporting role in Maine's renewable energy transition.

Sincerely,



Eliza Donoghue, Esq.  
Executive Director

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<sup>2</sup> See "[An Assessment of Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard](#)", prepared by Sustainable Energy Advantage at iv.

<sup>3</sup> See State of Maine, Office of Governor Janet T. Mills, "Governor Mills: Maine Stands on Solid Fiscal Footing, State of the Budget is Strong," February 14, 2023.

<sup>4</sup> See "[Maine Pathways to 2040: Analysis and Insights](#)", prepared by The Brattle Group and Evolved Energy Research for the Maine Governor's Energy Office (2025).