



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

April 2, 2025

**RE: LD 1130, An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State**

Dear Chair Lawrence, Chair Sachs, and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee:

My name is Ania Wright and I am Maine Audubon's Policy Advocate. Maine Audubon is a wildlife conservation nonprofit – we fulfill our mission to “conserve Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat” by engaging people of all ages in nature through a science-based approach to education, conservation, and advocacy. On behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1130: *An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State*.

LD 1130 updates the law regarding Maine's energy storage goals by adding an additional goal of 300 MW of long term duration battery storage by the end of 2035. Increasing battery storage capacity is a critical step to transitioning to the renewable energy future that Maine Audubon advocates for, as it allows for renewable energy to be stored during times of high production, and released when demand is high or renewables are unavailable. Long duration storage in comparison to traditional battery storage holds energy for extended periods of time (10+ hours) and increases the resiliency of the grid with intermittent renewable energy like wind and solar.

Long duration energy storage is key to a more sustainable future by helping to protect wildlife from direct and indirect threats from fossil-fuel powered generation. Long-duration energy battery storage has been identified as a cost-effective option to help get more renewable energy onto the grid while avoiding the need to over-build transmission. Battery storage can be sited near existing loads (near cities and towns), alongside generation, like solar and wind, and close to existing transmission lines. This is integral to Maine Audubon's position that though renewable resources bring tremendous opportunities to our state, they also bring potential conflict with Maine's wildlife and natural resources, and that any renewable energy should mitigate, avoid, and compensate for potential harms to wildlife.



Furthermore, bolstering the state's goal for energy storage will have the secondary impact of reducing fossil fuel dependence and allowing us to more quickly reach our renewable energy goals. Maine Audubon is supportive of initiatives that will reduce the effects of climate change, the largest threat to Maine wildlife and wildlife habitat. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ania Wright  
Policy Advocate