

**Testimony of Ashley Luszczki**  
**Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**  
**In Opposition to L.D. 1130, An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the**  
**State**  
**April 2, 2025**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Ashley Luszczki. I am here on behalf of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, representing a network of 5,000+ small to large businesses, to provide testimony in opposition to L.D. 1130, An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State.

The Chamber appreciates the focus on advancing Maine's energy storage resources and further believes that long-duration has a particular opportunity for a state that experiences prolonged cold snaps. However, we are concerned with the approach outlined in L.D. 1130, which establishes a rigid goal without analytical support. Further, we are concerned about Maine's energy statute being littered with goals from weatherization targets, wind installations, and potentially storage targets. Ultimately, specific technology targets should be means to public policy goals from greenhouse gas reduction and energy affordability, and we should work on creating more comprehensive goals for the state.

With the energy sector rapidly evolving, it is difficult to predict with certainty what Maine's grid needs will be a decade from now. A 300MW target may or may not be the right amount in 2035, and locking in this requirement today could lead to either an underbuilt or overbuilt system. Additionally, energy storage systems can have distinct production abilities. For instance, a 10MW battery that can produce electricity for multiple days may be more beneficial than a 100MW battery that can produce electricity for eight hours. Under the goal established in the proposed bill, both would equally contribute to the state's goal. A more flexible, market-driven approach – one that allows for adjustments based on future energy demand, cost trends, and technology improvements – would help Maine maximize its energy investments efficiently.

We also believe in a policy framework that ensures taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly. If Maine falls short of meeting the storage mandate, there is a risk that public funds may be needed to close the gap – detracting from other state initiatives. Instead, policies that incentivize private investment and innovation in energy storage will allow the state to grow this sector in a way that is both economically beneficial and fiscally responsible.

The Chamber recommends policies that encourage periodic assessments and public-private collaboration. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to continuing to work with policymakers on energy planning that is forward-thinking, flexible, and keeps affordability at the forefront.