VERSANT POWER

Testimony Neither for Nor Against LD 1130
An Act to Advance Long-duration Energy Storage Within the State
April 2, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the committee, my name is James Cote and I am here today on behalf of Versant Power to testify neither for nor against LD 1130.

LD 1130 would establish a goal to install 300 megawatts of long-duration energy storage by 2035, and, as such, would significantly increase Maine's existing statutory energy storage goals.

Versant Power firmly believes that energy storage is an increasingly critical component of the grid due to the very high penetration levels of distributed energy generation (DG) we have today in Maine, and the likelihood that those levels will continue to rise in the coming years.

Long-duration energy storage technologies- which can store energy anywhere from multiple hours to multiple days- offer great promise as a means of balancing and maximizing the value of intermittent resources. That ability is especially relevant in Versant's service territory where the penetration level of DG connected to our distribution system likely leads the nation[1]. Given such a high penetration level, energy storage is rapidly becoming a necessity for grid operations in Versant's service territory rather than an option.

Versant is also mindful that, even as our need for energy storage rises, implementation of these technologies, including long-duration energy storage, must be done in a manner that balances customer affordability with the grid reliability and other benefits that storage can deliver.

Notably, Versant may be among the first utilities in the country to interconnect a large, long-duration energy storage project. As part of an application submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy by several New England states, including Maine, Form Energy was selected to receive significant federal funding to build a long-duration, iron-air energy storage project in Lincoln, Maine. Versant and Form have established a very constructive working relationship, and we look forward to facilitating the interconnection of this new technology in a manner that maximizes benefits to our customers and the state.

Thank you for your consideration, and we would be pleased to provide additional information for the work session upon your request.

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[1] *DG penetration in Versant's service territory is now greater than 104% of peak load. The comparable rate of interconnected DG in California is about 36-40% of its peak.*