



**Testimony in Support of LD 1270**  
**An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources**  
**April 8, 2025**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the committee, my name is Mark Thibodeau and I am the Regional Manager of ReGenerate Energy Holdings, here today to testify in support of LD 1270.

ReGenerate Energy Holdings owns two standalone biomass energy facilities in Livermore Falls (39 megawatts) and Stratton (48 megawatts), which combined can produce enough baseload and dispatchable renewable electricity to supply upwards of 85,000 homes. These facilities employ 51 people directly, more than 250 indirectly and are important economic engines in these rural communities. They are critical outlets for low value residues in the forest products industry. In the absence of these facilities, sawmills, loggers, landowners, and other forest product manufacturers in Maine would have limited options for residue disposal and would subsequently force this material into Maine landfills or left in the woods to create dry tinder for potential forest fires.

In addition to our renewable electricity generation, ReGenerate is also working diligently in other beneficial spaces including:

- Distribution to Maine farmers of our MOFGA -approved ash as an agricultural fertilizer, the Stratton facility currently serves more than 90 family-owned farms in the region
- Development and exploration of biochar as a PFAS mitigation technology, we successfully commissioned a biochar project at our Livermore Falls facility in February of 2024 and hope to build a similar project at our Stratton facility which will make ReGenerate the largest producer of biochar in the State of Maine.

As evidenced in our reporting to the Public Utilities Commission, these facilities are cost competitive, act as an effective hedge for ratepayers, provide meaningful employment in rural areas, and provide tens of millions of dollars in local economic benefits each year.

We support LD 1270 based on two primary provisions.

First, ReGenerate is highly supportive of elevating the role that the Governor's Energy Office plays to a cabinet-level agency, Department of Energy Resources. Given our collective commitment to environmentally friendly, affordable electricity, and the role that energy plays in the current and future day-to-day lives of Maine people, we believe that a cabinet level agency that is appropriately resourced and staffed provides a more effective platform and more influential voice in both state and regional energy planning.



From our perspective, subsection 10303, Departmental responsibilities, which states, “*The department shall conduct planning, develop and implement policies and establish programs designed to ensure that all households, communities, and business in the State have access to an affordable, reliable and resilient energy supply to meet energy demand and support economic development*” is complimentary to the work that we do with our rural facilities, and places appropriate emphasis on taking advantage of Maine-derived renewable fuel sources and supply chains for local generators.

Secondly, we are supportive of subsection 10313, which provides that the Department of Energy Resources shall conduct competitive energy procurements starting in January of 2026 and every two years thereafter. This provision allows for greater predictability for all stakeholders and helps to avoid dramatic policy swings in the manner in which procurements are developed. This provision is particularly important for our company as our Stratton facility’s future hinges on a successful contract award in a competitive procurement. Without a near-term opportunity to competitively bid into a procurement, volatile energy markets will make it difficult for Stratton to continue operations. Losing this facility would be an unfortunate outcome for our employees and the Town of Stratton, our extensive network of suppliers in the forest products industry, and Maine’s climate and cost policy objectives, and it is an outcome that can be avoided.

For these reasons, we would urge the committee to support the general construct of LD 1270 and work with stakeholders to work through important details. We would be happy to answer any questions or provide more information at the work session. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mark Thibodeau  
Regional Manager  
ReGenerate Energy Holdings