



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Rep. Nathan Wadsworth introducing
LD 1250, "An Act to Provide That Portfolio Requirements for Renewable Electricity Resources Apply Only to Actual Retail Sales"
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

April 9, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Representative Nathan Wadsworth and I represent House District 82 which is comprised of the towns of Brownfield, Fryeburg, Lovell, Hiram, and Porter.

This is a fairly simply worded bill dealing with a complicated topic, Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS, and its requirements for retail electricity providers to satisfy the RPS with respect to "retail electricity sales in this State." I put that last phrase in quotes because it is found in Title 35-A in each section of law dealing with each class of RPS resources. You should certainly ask why this bill is before you today given the very clear statement in the existing law of the applicability of the RPS to retail sales ONLY.

I was surprised to learn that for some time, the Commission has been imposing a "behind-the-meter" holdback on renewable generators for their own consumption at their facilities and behind their utility meter. This has the effect of providing one more disincentive for self-generation of renewables by Mainers and Maine businesses – a disincentive that seems both wrongheaded and actually in violation of the existing statute. The holdback also has the effect of suppressing the supply of Renewable Energy Credits ("RECS") that can be used for compliance by consumers, likely contributing to increased electricity costs. Finally, this holdback seems at odds with our policy of beneficial electrification, as passed by this Committee and enacted into law in 2023.

Rather than encouraging renewable consumer-generators to take the Commission to court, I thought it best to offer this bill to make it clear to the Commission and to all concerned that Maine's RPS compliance requirements only apply to ACTUAL retail sales. A simple clarification for all concerned.

The RPS, its four classes of resources, and the concept of RECs, can become very complicated very quickly and while I understand the wrongheadedness of the behind-the-meter holdback and how to fix that, I will defer to others behind me who understand the RPS and RECs better than I do to explain these concepts and our statute.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill.

Nathan J. Wadsworth
State Representative

District 13 Brownfield/ Fryeburg/ Lovell/ Hiram/ Porter