

Testimony of Ashley Luszczki
Before the Joint Standing Committees on Energy, Utilities and Technology
Neither for nor Against L.D. 1317, An Act to Promote Responsible, Cost-effective Energy in
Maine by Amending the Tariff Rates Applicable to the Commercial and Institutional Net
Energy Billing Program
April 10, 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 5000+ small to large businesses, to offer testimony neither for nor against L.D. 1317, An Act to Promote Responsible, Cost-effective Energy in Maine by Amending the Tariff Rates Applicable to the Commercial and Institutional Net Energy Billing Program.

While our testimony today is “neither for nor against”, we want to recognize Senator Bennett for bringing this bill forward, which could provide greater predictability to pricing under Maine’s Net Energy Billing (NEB) tariff program.

In a quick review of the *Analysis of 2024 Net Benefits of the Net Energy Billing Program* prepared by Sustainable Energy Advantage, it was clear that the costs associated with the NEB tariff program are outweighing its benefits. These findings validate concerns about long-term cost shifts to non-participating ratepayers, including many in the business community. We support efforts to lower the costs of the tariff rate program.

We believe that L.D. 1317 represents a step toward greater predictability, that we believe is necessary. At the same time, the Chamber is committed to working with stakeholders to ensure any changes to NEB are measured - minimizing unintended consequences.