

Testimony of Ashley Luszczki
Before the Joint Standing Committees on Energy, Utilities and Technology
Neither for nor Against L.D. 1321, An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing
Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation
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. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of L.D. 1321, An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation.

We appreciate Rep. Foster bringing forward legislation to address concerns around Net Energy Billing (NEB) in a way that balances cost predictability with program flexibility.

The legislation proposes to cap NEB participation for projects under 60kW after November 1 2025. We do not think NEB is the right structure for compensation for larger projects and support this change, but would also encourage the Committee to direct the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to develop a successor compensation program that promotes solar development in 60kw to 1MW and does so to promote least cost development of solar. Furthermore, for projects less than 60kw there should also be a replacement program that encourages onsite consumption rather than export.

In addition, the legislation would impose limitations on financial interests and provides authority to the PUC to periodically review and revise compensation, provide cost controls as well as flexibility to the PUC to make necessary adjustments to the program when needed. We believe this flexibility brings greater accountability to the program, which would benefit all ratepayers.

Again, we appreciate the sponsor bringing this forward and want to reiterate that the Chamber is committed to working with stakeholders to find solutions to NEB cost concerns that results in a more measured program while minimizing any unintended consequences.