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Representative Melanie Sachs and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Skylar Werde and I'm the Head of Community Solar for Altus Power, a leading developer, and long-term owner and operator of commercial and community solar projects across the country, serving more than 500 customers, made up of businesses, municipalities and schools, as well as more than 35,000 Community Solar subscribers from coast to coast. We are one of the pioneers in the community solar industry and approach each of our projects with a long-term mindset and investment in the communities we serve. We are proud to bring the benefits of an investment in clean energy to communities throughout New England, including 61 MWs here in Maine. These projects in Maine have helped thousands of residents, businesses and municipalities lower their electricity costs while advancing the state's clean energy goals and helped create more than 15,000 jobs in Maine. I am here today to strongly oppose LD 1321, which threatens the viability of community solar and the associated economic benefits in Maine.

LD 1321 jeopardizes the confidence that financial institution partners and investors need to support these long-term developments. Without supportive policy frameworks, Maine risks losing not only renewable energy projects but also the significant economic benefits they bring, including job creation, property tax revenue and local contracting opportunities to the state of Maine.

Additionally, LD 1321 imposes restrictive participation limits that would significantly reduce access to community solar. The bill's 20-kilowatt capacity limit and the cap on financial interest in multiple projects will prevent larger community solar farms from serving Maine's residents and businesses. These restrictions ignore the scale needed to deliver cost-effective clean energy to all Maine residents -- homeowners and renters across income levels.

Perhaps most concerning is the arbitrary sunset provision in LD 1321, which effectively terminates net energy billing participation after 20 years or by 2045. This will have a detrimental effect on solar investment today. Developers, investors and communities need assurance that projects will remain financially viable for their full lifespan. Uncertainty around program longevity will stop new projects before they start, stalling Maine's transition to a more sustainable, cost-effective energy future.

Maine's community solar program has been a success story – driving private investment, creating local jobs and lowering energy costs, and being a model for other states to follow. Altus Power is committed to investing in local communities and building partnerships with Maine residents and leaders. This bill would reverse that progress, pushing Maine backward

just as other states are doubling down on renewable energy. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Maine Legislature on policies that sustain and enhance this important program, ensuring continued economic and environmental benefits for Maine residents.

Thank you for your time.

Skylar Werde, Head of Community Solar