

Charlie Duprey
The Wishcamper Companies, Inc. ("TWC")
April 10th, 2025

Testimony of Charlie Duprey on behalf of TWC in opposition of LD 1321 and LD 1317

Senator Lawrence,
Representative Sachs,
Members of the EUT Committee,

My name is Charlie Duprey, and I am the Vice President of Solar Development for The Wishcamper Companies, Inc. ("TWC"). TWC is a Maine-based developer and owner of affordable housing and renewable energy. I am submitting this written testimony in opposition to LD 1321 and LD 1317.

My testimony today is to inform you of the devastating impact LD 1321 and LD 1317 would have on our Maine-based business and those we serve.

TWC owns and operates seven solar arrays throughout the state that participate in NEB. Through this program, we provide our offtakers with significant electricity savings. Our offtakers include schools, universities, municipalities, and hospitals. These deep-rooted Maine institutions use the savings from our solar arrays to expand offerings, improve services, strengthen their workforce, and enhance fiscal security. Essentially reducing the economic benefit of NEB credits by 50% (and greater under LD 1321) on a retroactive basis would cause our Maine schools, universities, municipalities and hospitals to be worse off as they will lose out on significant savings they have been planning on and that our arrays will deliver.

TWC has made significant investments in the state of Maine to construct and operate its solar arrays. If, on a retroactive basis, NEB credits were reduced to the proposed rates, TWC would default on the sizeable loans we have with Maine-based lenders. We would also default on our financial obligations to our Maine investors. The commitments we made were based on the enacted NEB rules, which have already been amended through LD 634 in 2022 and, more recently, LD 1986.

There is no-one-size fits all rate for every tariff project in Maine, primarily attributable to how these projects were financed but I am confident that many projects will default under their obligations at the rates proposed in LD 1321 and 1317. I welcome any opportunity to share further detail to derive a rate at which these projects can continue to operate and provide substantial benefits to our offtakers.

TWC opposes these bills, and we urge you to vote **Ought Not to Pass**.