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PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Testimony Neither for Nor Against**  
**LD 1321, “An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the**  
**Programs' Duration and Compensation”**  
**And**  
**LD 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 distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

My name is Heather Sanborn, here today as Public Advocate, to testify neither for nor against both LD 1321, “An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation” and LD 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.”

We believe that these bills include important elements that could be part of reforms to reduce the enormous costs of net energy billing that are borne by Maine's ratepayers.

To emphasize the importance of proposals such as these, we want to take this opportunity to provide the committee with a printed copy of the 2024 Sustainable Energy Advantage (SEA) Report that was issued by the PUC last week and to highlight some key findings in that report.

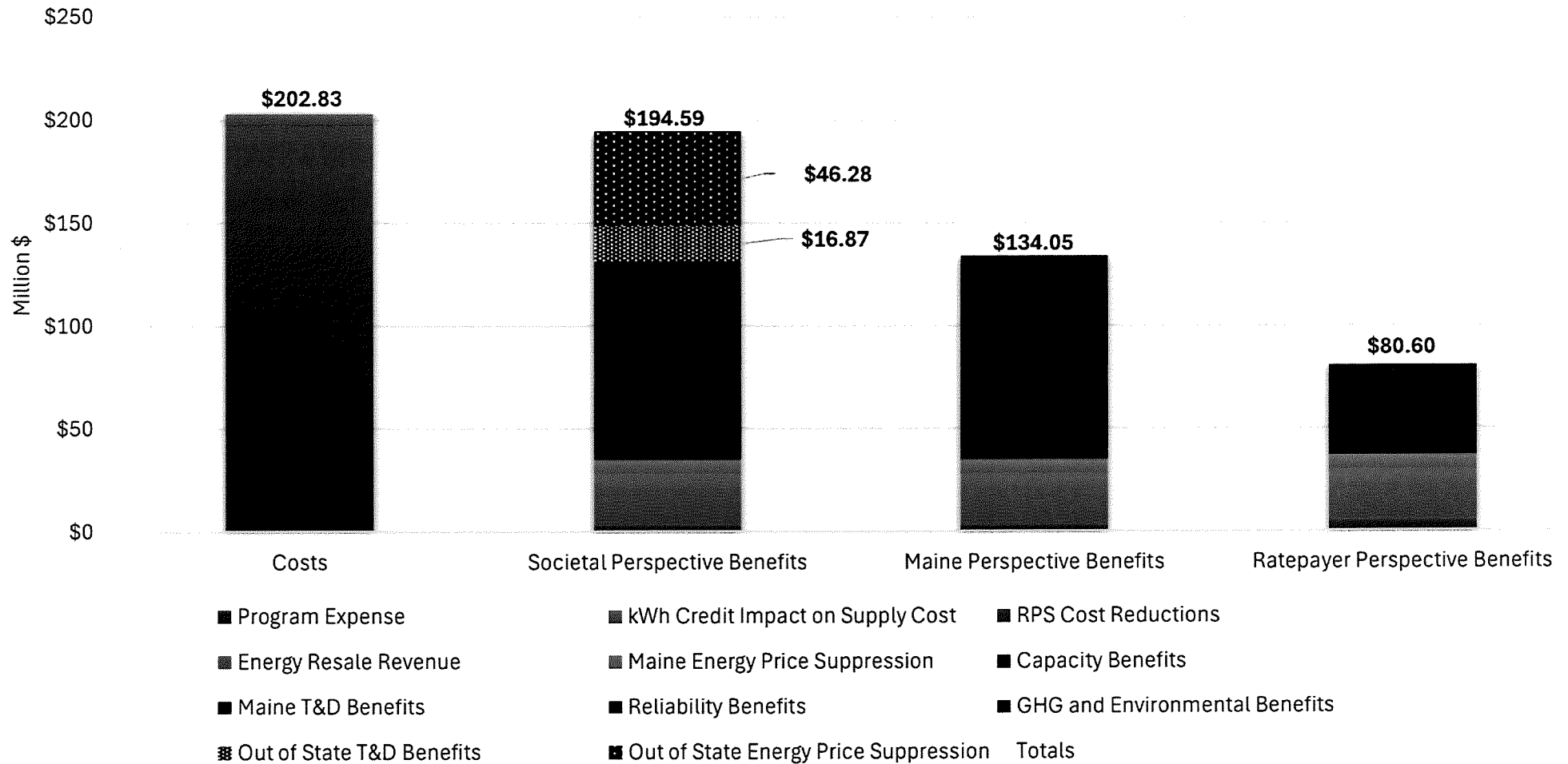
- As shown on the attached graphic, costs outweigh the benefits under every perspective SEA modeled.
- Monetary benefits flowing to out-of-state ratepayers total more than \$63 million.
- From the Maine perspective—even including SEA's modeled value of greenhouse gas reductions—the costs of this program exceeded the benefits by more than \$68 million.
- From the Maine ratepayer perspective, the costs exceeded the benefits by a whopping \$122 million.

As stated in testimony on other bills related to net energy billing, we are in favor of reforms to the 2019 program that present viable and responsible solutions to the cost burden facing Maine ratepayers.

I welcome your questions and would be pleased to provide additional information for the work session.

Respectfully submitted,  
Heather Sanborn  
Public Advocate

## NEB Program - Costs and Benefits by Component



Data source: *Analysis of 2024 Net Benefits of Net Energy Billing Program*. Prepared for the Maine Public Utilities Commission, Sustainable Energy Advantage, LLC, March 31, 2025. Data obtained from Figure 2 on page 31 and Table 15 on page 40.

[https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/sites/maine.gov/mpuc/files/inline-files/Maine-NEB-Y2024\\_CBA\\_Final.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/mpuc/sites/maine.gov/mpuc/files/inline-files/Maine-NEB-Y2024_CBA_Final.pdf)