



Mark W. Lawrence
Senator, District 35

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Mark W. Lawrence introducing

L.D. 1860, An Act to Allow Certain Distributed Energy Resources to Participate in the State's Net Energy Billing Program

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

May 6, 2025

Chair Sachs and esteemed colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Mark Lawrence. I am the State Senator from District 35 in southern York County, proudly representing Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit, South Berwick, and York. I am here today to present L.D. 1860, An Act to Allow Certain Distributed Energy Resources to Participate in the State's Net Energy Billing Program.

I bring this bill forward on behalf of Maine business leaders hoping to participate in Maine's Net Energy Billing Program. These two projects are unique in that they were fully built, subscribed and ready to go online prior to the NEB deadline for commercial operation. The energization of the Ameresco project was delayed due to a supply chain issue faced by Versant, which Versant acknowledged in an affidavit. The Nordic Sun project's eligibility issue resulted from delays of interconnection studies and executing its interconnection agreement.

Both projects would have otherwise met the statutory deadline for commercial operation but were unable to energize and participate in the NEB program due to issues beyond their control. The bill is a surgical effort to preserve local investments in Presque Isle and Ellsworth, Maine. The construction process used local contractors and delivered for their host communities. Both projects are fully subscribed and would provide substantial savings for their subscribers.

These businesses built their budgets in reliance on these projects delivering those savings. Both projects were recently informed of eligibility issues after the projects were fully constructed and about to commence operation at the end of 2024. This legislation is meant to restore the value of those projects to both their developers and off-takers.

I am happy to answer questions the Committee may have but would defer specific questions to those testifying in support following me. Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill.