



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. 1868, An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws

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. 1868, An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy. A sponsor's amendment for this bill was shared with interested parties yesterday afternoon.

Maine was an early leader when in the late 1990s it adopted a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) establishing the portion of electricity sold in the state that must be supplied by renewable energy resources. In 2019, Governor Mills signed bipartisan legislation (P.L. 2019 Ch. 477) that increased Maine's RPS to 80 percent by 2030.

The RPS has been an important policy tool which has contributed many benefits to Maine's economy, including net annual average benefits of approximately \$21.5 million to electric ratepayers; direct investments in Maine associated with construction, operations, and maintenance of new and existing Maine-based renewable energy facilities; additional state tax revenues; reduced imports of fossil fuels to the state; and emission reductions.

We are well on our way toward achieving the state's 80% RPS by 2030. This bill today, which comes out of robust technical analysis that went into the latest Maine Energy Plan, puts in place the statutory mechanism to get us the rest of the way to 100% clean energy.

L.D. 1868 increases Maine's RPS to 90% by 2040 and adds a complimentary 10% clean energy standard or CES, summing to 100% clean energy by 2040 by expanding the set of low or zero-carbon resources eligible to contribute to meeting Maine's decarbonization goals through affordable, reliable, and innovative technologies. This bill also expands the state's authority to partner with other states in the region to procure clean energy resources, and proposes a targeted near-term procurement for the purpose of improving the long-term viability of existing renewable energy facilities.



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This proposal will support long-term certainty for planning and investment decisions. Expanded eligibility to meet Maine's decarbonization goals and flexibility for new technologies to contribute once they become viable will support the most affordable, reliable portfolio of resources. It will save electricity consumers money and reduce exposure to fossil fuel price volatility. And it will further the growth of clean energy jobs in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill, I am happy to answer any questions you have. Representatives from the Governor's Energy Office are here to speak in greater depth about the components of this bill.