



STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

Neither For Nor Against

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

May 6, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology (Committee), my name is Deirdre Schneider, testifying neither for nor against the sponsor's amendment to LD 1868, An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

LD 1868 includes several provisions, including the establishment of a clean energy standard under Maine's renewable portfolio requirement law. The Commission's testimony is limited to changes proposed to 35-A M.R.S. § 3210-C, the proposed renewable energy procurement for existing resources and the proposed energy storage procurement authority in the sponsor's amendment.

Section 3210-C

Section 3210-C requires the Commission to make a determination at least every three years regarding the need to conduct a competitive solicitation to procure capacity resources that are likely to benefit ratepayers. LD 1868 incorporates clean resources in the definition of a capacity resource and also includes clean energy credits as something the Commission could procure pursuant to this section. The bill also clarifies the Commission's authority to engage in regional procurements or to coordinate with other states in their procurement efforts.¹ Having clarity regarding the Commission's regional procurement authority provides important flexibility to take advantage of regional partnerships that will benefit Maine ratepayers.

Section 26 – Renewable Energy Procurement

LD 1868 requires the Commission to conduct a competitive solicitation to procure Class IA resources that began commercial operations on or prior to June 30, 2019, in order to improve the long-term viability of existing facilities. Contract terms are for no more than 10 years, unless the Commission finds a longer term to be prudent. The Commission has the ability to conduct this required solicitation.

¹ Sections 16 through 25 of LD 1868. The sponsor's amendment fixes errors in the bill as originally drafted.

Energy Storage Procurement

Public Law 2023, chapter 374 (the Act) requires the Commission to review the recommendations of the Governor's Energy Office (GEO) regarding a program to procure up to 200 megawatts of energy storage capacity. The Act also requires that upon a finding that the proposed program is reasonably likely to achieve the objectives established in Section 2, subsection 1 of the Act, the Commission shall take steps to implement the program. The Commission is currently reviewing the proposed GEO program. The sponsor's amendment provides the Commission with the authority to conduct an energy storage procurement should the Commission find that the GEO's proposed program meets the requirements of the Act. Upon review of existing law, the Commission determined that it did not have the authority to conduct a competitive solicitation for energy storage capacity in accordance with the proposed program.

I would be happy to answer any questions or provide additional information for the work session.