

Russell Black Senator, District 5

THE MAINE SENATE 132nd Legislature

3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

LD 1964, "An Act to Require the Development of a Standard Written Disclosure for Sellers and Installers of Distributed Generation Resources, to Make Changes to Other Standard Disclosures and to Make Misrepresentation in the Sale of Electricity Products an Unfair Trade Practice"

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy Utilities and Technology

May 15, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, I am Senator Russell Black and I am here today to present LD 1964, "An Act to Require the Development of a Standard Written Disclosure for Sellers and Installers of Distributed Generation Resources, to Make Changes to Other Standard Disclosures and to Make Misrepresentation in the Sale of Electricity Products an Unfair Trade Practice."

As solar energy continues to expand in Maine all of us see an increasing level of marketing and communications in our mailboxes, emails and advertisements online inviting us to become a customer of any number of companies who are building solar on our rooftops or members of community solar projects.

As we have all likely heard from our constituents at one point or another, making decisions about these electricity products, understanding who these companies may or may not be associated with, and the obligations of customers, developers, and utilities can often be confusing and complex, at best.

The State of Rhode Island recently passed, and their Governor signed, comprehensive legislation dealing with the disclosure of information and important customer protections related to solar.

While the legislation that I am proposing today is not as comprehensive as what has been passed in Rhode Island, I think it could be the start of an important conversation about what information customers should clearly be entitled to; and what protections they should be afforded. If we are going to continue to build solar in Maine, let's make sure Maine people have adequate consumer protections and the best information possible to make decisions for their households.

With that, there are plenty of experts behind me who can help answer any technical questions you may have. Please note that I welcome all ideas and input to make this legislation as effective and efficient as possible for both the businesses that build these projects and the customers they serve. Thanks for your consideration.