



STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

Neither For Nor Against

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

May 15, 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 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 on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

The Commission's comments are limited to sections 2 through 4 of the bill and the sponsor's amendment, but we see value in the other sections of the bill. The changes proposed in LD 1964 relating to the information that must be included in a standard disclosure form provided by a competitive electricity provider to residential and small commercial consumers and by a project sponsor to net energy billing customers will be helpful to consumers. Commission rules, Chapters 305 and 313, contain requirements regarding the disclosure of information to consumers. These new requirements will complement those existing requirements and provide for standardized communication of that information to consumers.

In regard to the sponsor's amendment, the Commission is supportive of these additional consumer protections for net energy billing customers. In order for a customer to realize the maximum benefits from a net energy billing arrangement it is important for that customer's subscription to be appropriately sized. We would note however that further amendments may be needed relating to the enforcement of these two new provisions. Current law specifies the enforcement authority related to consumer protection provisions. Some provisions may be enforced by the Commission, while others are delegated to the Attorney General and are considered a violation of the Maine Unfair Trade Practices Act. If moving forward, the Committee may want to amend 35-A § 3209-A(6) to include how the two new paragraphs proposed in the sponsor's amendment are to be treated for the purposes of enforcement.

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