

May 21, 2025

132nd Maine State Legislature
Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology
Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair
Representative Melanie Sachs, Chair

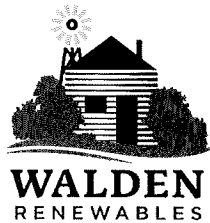
Testimony in Support of L.D. 597, "An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Conduct Procurements Energy or Renewable Energy Credits"

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Committee, my name is Dale Knapp, and I am here today on behalf of Walden Renewables to express my support of L.D. 597. I have personally been working on energy project in Maine for the last twenty-five years, as both a consultant, developer, and subject matter expert.

Walden Renewables is a utility-scale developer of solar, wind, and battery storage projects in Maine. Our Portland-based team has recently begun commercial operations of our 20MW Leeds Solar project, and our 20MW Mousam River Solar project will be operational in September of this year. We also own and operate the 5 MW Littlefield Solar project on the Town of Wells's former landfill site. Additionally, we hold active leases in Maine for over 20 projects totaling 1,000MW that are in various phases of development. Our mission at Walden is to build, own, and operate renewable energy projects that add rate-payer value while simultaneously meeting our renewable energy targets. As such, Walden Renewables ardently supports L.D. 597.

The renewable energy industry relies on clear procurement timelines and regulatory certainty to advance complex projects requiring years of permitting, financing, and construction. Maine possesses a wealth of high-quality renewable energy projects waiting to be unlocked by a competitive procurement process. L.D. 597 creates tangible, near-term opportunities for continued renewable energy growth in Maine. Furthermore, L.D. 597 builds toward a more diverse, stable, and cleaner power supply that benefits ratepayers who need affordable electricity.

As smaller scale solar projects are being constructed throughout the region, we, as ratepayers, are missing out on the low-cost fixed price contracts of utility scale projects. To my knowledge, none of the recent procurements run by the Maine Public Utilities Commission have seen a project enter operations and feed the standard offer rate in its contracted service territory. We need to deliver some benefits to Maine residents, and this bill could help meet that important goal.



As a developer with active and proposed projects in Maine, we are eager to participate in future solicitations under this framework. L.D. 597 will allow high-quality projects – particularly those stalled due to procurement uncertainty – to move forward, creating jobs, strengthening the state’s economy, and advancing our renewable energy goals, while providing price suppression for retail electricity rates here in Maine. Thank you for your time today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale F. Knapp", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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