



STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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## Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

### Neither For Nor Against

#### **LD 1966, An Act to Improve Access to Community Solar Programs in the State**

October 30, 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 1966, An Act to Improve Access to Community Solar Programs in the State on behalf of the Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

#### **Sections 1 and 12**

Sections 1 and 12 of the bill contain the same language that was in LD 1949. Subsequent to the vote on LD 1949 by the Committee, the Commission, the sponsor of LD 1949 and stakeholders worked on language to better capture the intent of this provision. If moving forward with this bill, the Commission suggests replacing Section 1 of the bill with the Senate Amendment to the Committee Amendment.<sup>1</sup> Replacing Section 1 of the bill with the Senate floor amendment removes the need to retain Section 12.

#### **Sections 7, 8, 10 and 11**

While consolidated billing and net crediting would simplify billing for customers participating in net energy billing, the Commission is concerned with the requirement that a transmission and distribution utility is required to provide payment to a project sponsor or distributed generation (DG) resource regardless of a payment being made by the customer participating in net energy billing. Providing project sponsors (or DG resources) with the ability to be made whole, even if the utility receives no payment from a customer would lead to all ratepayers further subsidizing participation in net energy billing and would likely lead to higher net energy billing costs.

LD 1966 requires the Commission to consider whether a transmission and distribution utility may require a fee for a project sponsor or DG resource that uses net crediting. However, any such fee may not exceed 1% of the subscription fee. It is unclear if this is sufficient for the utilities to update their billing systems to accommodate this change, as well as conduct new billing and collection duties. The project sponsor or DG resource should be responsible for all costs associated with the new billing format, rather than creating possible new costs for all ratepayers.

<sup>1</sup> Section C-2 of S-A to C-A (S-412) -

<https://legislature.maine.gov/backend/App/services/getDocument.aspx?documentId=120161>

## **Section 9**

Section 9 requires a transmission and distribution utility to provide a project sponsor with a net energy billing customer's usage and billing information with a customer's authorization to share this information. This requirement was enacted in Public Law 2025, chapter 430 (LD 1777) and is currently part of a rulemaking process at the Commission to update Chapter 313, Customer Net Energy Billing.<sup>2</sup>

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