



Environmental Priorities Coalition

**Testimony of Sarah Woodbury, Legislative Director, Maine Conservation Alliance
in support of LD 1730, *An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices
Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis***

January 6, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and distinguished member of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Sarah Woodbury. I am the Legislative Director at Maine Conservation Alliance, a statewide non-profit organization with 13,000 members and supporters that is building a just, thriving future for all by acting on the climate crisis, protecting the environment, and safeguarding our democracy. I am here today to testify on behalf of the Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC) in support of LD 1730, *An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis*. The EPC is an inclusive statewide alliance of 41 conservation, climate action, and public health organizations. Each year we collectively identify a slate of policy priorities to act on the climate crisis, further environmental justice, protect land, water, and wildlife, and cultivate healthy Maine communities. LD 1730 is one of those priorities.

As Maine works to reach its goal of 100% clean energy by 2040, we need to provide affordable options for consumers to transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy sources like solar. Plug-in solar is one such option. This technology, which was initially popularized in Germany, provides less expensive solar options for those that can't afford larger rooftop solar arrays or who own or rent smaller apartments and houses that don't have rooftops that are suitable for rooftop solar. These small plug-in systems help offset grid use and reduce utility costs for the households that choose to use them, something that is desperately needed right now in Maine as we face rising utility costs.

Millions of users of plug-in solar in Germany and across Europe benefit from these low-cost systems. Plug-in solar paired with small batteries can provide backup power during outages. It can also help strengthen resilience for rural and island communities that often face storm-related disruptions and rely on costly diesel generators. Maine will not be the first state to take advantage of the benefits of plug-in solar. Utah passed a law last year to allow the use of plug-in solar and neighboring states of Vermont, New York, and New Hampshire are also considering similar legislation.

Plug-in solar will help expand clean energy access beyond homeowners with ideal rooftops who can afford a full rooftop solar system. It can also help renters, seniors on fixed incomes, and low-income households participate in Maine's clean energy transition, providing affordable solar options to help lower energy costs. For these and many other reasons the 41 organizations in the EPC urge you to vote yes on LD 1730.

Thank you.