

To: Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
From: Jackson Chadwick, Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Date: Tuesday, January 6, 2026



RE: Testimony in Support of L.D. 1730: "An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis"

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

Good afternoon. My name is Jackson Chadwick, and I represent Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ) as their Advocacy & Organizing Director. MYCJ supports young people in the fight for climate action and justice through legislative advocacy, community organizing, and educational programs. Our members range from high school and college students to young adults entering and contributing to Maine's workforce.

I am excited to speak today in favor of L.D. 1730. If passed, this legislation will make small, portable, plug-in solar more accessible to young people and renters in our state.

As you have now heard, plug-in solar is currently available to purchase. In Maine, however, consumers are required to complete an interconnection application even though these devices are behind-the-meter, do not export electricity to the grid, and do not participate in the state's Net Energy Billing program. This presents a bureaucratic hurdle to people who choose to purchase these devices, including young Mainers. L.D. 1730 proposes removing that requirement.

As a young Mainer myself, I am interested in exploring renewable energy devices. But the problem is, I can't afford conventional rooftop or ground-mounted solar. In addition, I am a renter and cannot explore those options for my home. Portable, plug-in solar is something I can purchase as an alternative and take with me when I move from one place to another, and it can plug into a standard electrical outlet. Passing L.D. 1730 would simplify my ability to do so.

Young Mainers are experiencing an affordability crisis across food, housing, and overall living costs. Many of us are interested in finding creative ways to lower our electricity bills, but barriers like these make it more difficult for us - and everyone - to do so.

This legislation does not require subsidies, has no fiscal impact on the State, and serves as a valuable resource for young Mainers and others seeking affordable energy solutions to reduce electricity costs.

Maine Youth for Climate Justice respectfully requests that you vote to pass L.D. 1730. We thank you for your time and consideration, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have about our testimony.

Sincerely,

Jackson Chadwick
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Maine Youth for Climate Justice
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