



**Testimony of the Efficiency Maine Trust
Michael D. Stoddard, Executive Director**

IN SUPPORT OF

LD 1730 –

**An Act to An Act to Make Small, Portable, Plug-in Solar Generation Devices
Accessible for All Maine Residents to Address the Energy Affordability Crisis**

Presented to the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

January 6, 2026

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Efficiency Maine Trust (Efficiency Maine) **in support of LD 1730**.

This bill directs the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board to adopt certain amendments to the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code to allow, and facilitate, the use of small, behind-the-meter, plug-in PV systems and battery systems.

As this Committee knows, Efficiency Maine operates initiatives to help Mainers manage and lower their energy bills through actions they take at their own properties. Among the initiatives we are operating is a growing **Demand Management Program**, designed to enable more Mainers to manage the amount and timing of their electricity consumption in ways that can both save money for the consumer directly while also reducing costs of **peak demand** on the grid. This bill focuses on batteries that do not export to the grid. They present a safe, useful tool for consumers to manage the amount and timing of their consumption, and should be encouraged.

We also want to remind the Legislature that Efficiency Maine's Triennial Plan VI, recently approved by the Maine PUC, is fully committed to promoting a variety of battery types, including those that can be controlled and discharged onto the grid during periods of peak demand. In 2024, Efficiency Maine piloted the use of batteries at homes and small businesses and demonstrated that this approach can lower rates for all ratepayers while also saving money for the consumers who install these devices. Efficiency Maine is launching the next generation of its small battery program this month. In the years ahead, batteries will play a growing role in helping Maine make energy more affordable, reliable and clean. Efficiency Maine is excited about the prospect of offering programs to facilitate and encourage expansion of batteries throughout the Maine economy. They have the potential to deliver a multitude of benefits, including economic, reliability, and environmental.

For these reasons, it is appropriate and desirable for Maine policy to be sending signals to regulators and to the marketplace that Maine is a place where we will be encouraging greater use of distributed resources. This bill is a step in that direction.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/MDS

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