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Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition to

*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 members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, my name is Tanya Emery, and I am providing testimony today in opposition to LD 1730 at the direction of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization that aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents of Maine. The LPC is composed of municipal officials from across Maine, elected by their peers to represent member communities.

MMA recognizes the valuable benefits to consumers that have access to additional energy options, especially at a time when affordability is central to almost every conversation. However, affordability is the principal reason that the LPC decided to oppose LD 1730. MMA's Legislative Policy Committee does not oppose the bill because of the allowance of small, portable, plug-in solar generation devices for Maine customers, but rather because of the requirement that all new four or more unit buildings constructed after December 1, 2026 include at least one outdoor dedicated ~~5-10 amp~~ circuit per unit. This requirement will potentially add significant costs to new construction projects when the State has been focused on both housing and climate issues in tandem.

Providing solar-ready electrical infrastructure is commendable but should remain a choice for individual property owners or developers. Related solar-ready and electric-ready concepts have been discussed at the International Code Council (ICC) level, yet this specific requirement has not been adopted, reflecting ongoing concerns about cost, scalability and practical application. Neither the ICC model codes nor the National Electric Code (NEC) have such a mandate. There is no current national baseline requiring at least one dedicated ~~5-10 amp~~ circuit per residential dwelling unit to facilitate future plug-in solar generation devices.

MMA urges the committee to oppose LD 1730. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

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