



Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
% Legislative Information Office  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

March 4, 2026

Re: Public Hearing, LD 897, *An Act Regarding Required Negative Pricing Provisions in Contracts for Energy Resulting from Competitive Solicitations Conducted by the Public Utilities Commission*

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share testimony in support of the Sponsor's Amendment to LD 897, newly titled *An Act Regarding Required Negative Pricing Provisions in Contracts for Energy Resulting from Competitive Solicitations Conducted by the Public Utilities Commission*, on behalf of the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA).<sup>1</sup> MREA is a not-for-profit association of renewable energy producers, suppliers of goods and services to those producers, and other supporters of the industry. Our member companies include wind, solar, hydropower, and biomass energy producers and developers of such projects, as well as companies that provide services to those producers and developers, such as environmental engineers, electricians, and general contractors.

MREA supports amending existing statutory language regarding negative pricing because the language, as proposed by the Maine Public Utilities Commission (Commission), is essential to aligning Maine's practices with other New England states. This alignment is critical to Maine's collaborative work with other states on renewable energy and associated transmission procurements. Collaboration with other New England states, in some circumstances, is necessary to share costs on capital expenditures that will result in reducing or stabilizing energy costs for Maine people. LD 897 would facilitate that collaboration to the benefit of Maine ratepayers.

In addition to our support for the Sponsor's Amendment, MREA strongly recommends that the bill be further amended to resolve an intended consequence of last session's LD 1777, *An Act to Reduce Costs and Increase Customer Protections for the State's Net Energy Billing Programs*. As the Committee is already aware, it was their intention to exempt net energy billing customers with an ownership share in a project from the prohibition from participation in more

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<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the Sponsor's Amendment shared with interested parties on February 25, 2026.

than one net energy billing agreement. This intention did not carry to the Commission's rulemaking to implement portions of LD 1777 and, as has been made apparent by the Commission, there must be a statutory change in order to implement the Legislature's intention and to avoid depriving a minority of NEB customers that have made significant capital investments in an ownership share of a solar energy facility. MREA recommends that the Committee include Section 15 (also commonly referred to as Section Z) from LD 1966, as voted on by the Committee on February 26, 2026, in LD 897.

Thank you for your consideration of MREA's testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eliza Donoghue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.  
Executive Director