



STATE OF MAINE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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Testimony of the Maine Public Utilities Commission

Neither for Nor Against

LD 856, An Act To Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation

March 1, 2022

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is neither for nor against LD 856, An Act To Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation.

While we are supportive of examining ways to encourage combining the agricultural use of land with solar energy production, additional financial incentives for solar projects at the expense of ratepayers should be considered in the broader context of the many initiatives underway to support renewable energy development in Maine with ratepayer funds. The Commission appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with the Governor's Energy Office, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and other stakeholders on the thoughtful consideration of a dual-use energy pilot program, in which the promotion of dual-use projects is carefully balanced with ratepayer impacts.

The Commission will be available to participate in the work session. If the Committee has any specific questions in advance of the work session, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Schneider
Legislative Liaison
Maine Public Utilities Commission

cc: Karen Nadeau, Legislative Analyst