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LD 1881

The proposed legislation, LD 1881, will inhibit Maine's ability to meet its renewable energy commitments and reduce the benefits that Maine ratepayers can earn through the installation and operation of local renewable energy. Additionally, LD1881 will significantly inhibit or eliminate up to nearly 6000 local Maine job years in the next four years according to a 2022 forecast from economists Ryan Wallace, PhD, and Michael LeVert of Stepwise Data Research.

Furthermore, the Department's definition and maps of prime agricultural soils and soils of statewide importance are exceedingly broad and outdated. The Department currently does not have a soil scientist on staff and lacks the expertise to determine which projects are truly located on prime agricultural soils. The requirements contemplated in LD 1881 would put an unnecessary burden on many projects that are not truly located on prime agricultural soils. References to these maps which will unnecessarily impede the growth of Maine's renewable energy economy. For these reasons, we strongly urge that this proposed draft LD 1881 should not advance out of committee.

Thank you,
Ryan Darlow