

March 15, 2021

Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair
Representative Seth Berry, Chair
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Testimony in Opposition to LD 249, LD 583 and LD 634

To Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and Members of the Energy Utilities and Technology Committee:

Please consider this written testimony in opposition to LD 249, LD 583 and LD 634. We urge the Committee to vote against these harmful pieces of legislation. Any one of these bills would kill the distributed and community solar industry in Maine, eliminating millions of dollars in investment and thousands of jobs, and moving the state in the wrong direction with regards to climate policy.

TurningPoint Energy ("TPE") is a clean tech advisory, development and investment company specializing in community solar. The company has been on the forefront of community solar development, with over 50 MW DC operating, and more than 300 MW in construction or development. The team is committed to providing meaningful community solar projects for the communities we work in and energy consumers alike.

TPE would first like to commend the Committee for the work it did in passing LD 1711 back in 2019. The legislation sent a clear signal that Maine was serious about its climate goals and the creation of a clean energy economy. As a result of this legislation TPE has developed nearly a dozen solar projects across the state of Maine. These projects will create local jobs, and provide much needed investment and opportunities throughout the state, while advance the states climate goals.

TPE works closely with the Coalition for Community Solar Access ("CCSA") and the Maine Renewable Energy Association ("MREA") and wholeheartedly supports their comments in addition to our own. Specifically, we strongly urge you not to adopt any of the three bills before the Committee for consideration, LD 249 "An Act To Eliminate the Current Net Energy Billing Policy in Maine," LD 583 "An Act To Repeal the Changes Made by Public Law 2019, Chapter 478, "An Act to Promote Solar Energy Projects and Distributed Generation Resources in Maine," and LD 634 "An Act to Cap the Value of Contracts for Renewable Resources and Distributed Generation Resources." Each of these bills in differing ways undermine the purpose of LD 1711 and undercuts millions of dollars of investment that has been or will be shortly invested into the Maine economy.

Thank you in advance for considering this important proposal to keep Maine on a path towards a renewable energy future. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide any additional information to your committee.

Sincerely Yours,

Michelle Carpenter

Michelle Carpenter
Managing Director of Development
TurningPoint Energy