



March 16, 2021

Senator Mark Lawrence, Senate Chair
Representative Seth Berry, House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and Committee Members:

Please accept this letter as Versant Power's testimony neither for nor against LDs 249, 583, and 709.

Versant Power supports and is committed to Maine's climate goals, and we fully appreciate that distributed generation and net energy billing programs have been, and will continue to be, an important component of reaching those goals.

Understanding the current dynamics associated with these programs, and recognizing that it is critical that we balance the benefits of the programs with customer needs and the safe and reliable operation of the grid, we support the general consensus that there may be a need to reevaluate aspects of these programs in a thoughtful manner to ensure their future success.

The details of how such an evaluation should occur, including by whom it will be led, the timeframe in which it occur, and the objectives the programs are desired to meet, are all policy decisions appropriately made by the Legislature. For our part, Versant Power believes we have an important role to play in such a process and commit to being a thoughtful and collaborative participant.

Achieving detailed policy recommendations on these matters may take longer than is anticipated in some of this legislation due to the complicated nature of this topic; however, we believe that it is to everyone's benefit to thoroughly examine these issues. We would respectfully request the Committee consider allowing stakeholders additional time to have this dialogue, with a goal of coming back to you in January with a comprehensive set of recommendations.

Versant Power stands willing to be a resource to this committee about how these programs have been implemented and what their subsequent impact has been in our service territory. Our request is that you allow us the ability to be a participant in this evaluation. We believe that it is critical for utilities, customers, generators, and other relevant stakeholders to all take part in this conversation, with a goal of seeking durable consensus policy recommendations whenever possible.



As you know, it is imperative that collectively we strike the right balance of climate progress, customer benefit, and grid optimization.

We look forward to engaging with you further as you consider this important issue, and please do not hesitate to contact us if there is any information or perspective we can provide.

Sincerely,

Tim Pease
Vice President, Legal and Regulatory Affairs