

March 16, 2021

To: Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

Re: Testimony in opposition to LD 249, LD 583, LD 634.

Thank you Chair Lawrence and Berry and the Committee. I'm here in opposition to LD 249.

SunRaise has community solar projects in over a dozen towns across Maine, has customers that include some of our largest employers in Maine to municipalities to thousands of residential customers, has already constructed five projects which created hundreds of jobs in the second half of 2020, and is under construction on another four projects. SunRaise very strongly opposes LD 249, LD 583, and LD 634.

In 2019, the Maine legislature passed bold legislation to curb climate change by encouraging the renewable energy industry to invest in Maine and reduce our state's emissions. Fast forward two years to today that is exactly what has happened. Industry from all over have come to Maine to heavily invest private dollars and be part of the solution to this important clean energy transition. LD 249, LD 583, and LD 634 would undermine Maine's previous commitment, present irreversible damage to our climate change transition, eliminate the jobs yet to be created by renewable energy, and send an alarming message from Maine to industry. These three bills are anti-business and unfairly target one sector of Maine's industries. Hundreds of millions of dollars are being invested now into construction, equipment, labor, and engineering to bring hundreds of MWs of clean, low cost electricity and thousands of jobs. These three bills would realistically pull the plug on all of this momentum retroactively. A bill that retroactively pulls the rug out from a prior regulation or law is rarely wise, and in this case it would be devastating to Maine's business reputation and transition to clean energy. Furthermore, being 12 months into a global recession and pandemic this is precisely the wrong time to kill jobs that are in state and good paying. Recovery from the pandemic is a long way off and we need to encourage, not discourage, investment from industries that can offer long-term, sustainable economic growth to our state. Industries like solar energy.

SunRaise and ReWild are a local developer, owner, and operator of community solar and energy storage projects. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and welcome any follow up questions.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Jackson", with a stylized, cursive script.

Pat Jackson
Co-Founder

SunRaise Investments and ReWild Renewables