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Sedgwick, Hancock County

Dear members of the Committee,

I write you IN OPPOSITION to LD 634 to Cap the Value of Contracts for Renewable Resources and Distributed Generation, as well as to LD 249 to Eliminate the Current Net Energy Billing in Maine, and LD 583 to Repeal the Changes Made by Public Law 2019.

These bills would harm the people of Maine, harm our state's economy, and would set us back in the fight against climate change. Please reject these harmful bills.

I live in Sedgwick and have invested in solar panels on my home. They are very productive - and make us feel great every morning when we switch on the electric kettle. We had to calibrate the panels so that generation would roughly equal our electricity consumption over a year. Thanks to the existing net metering system available to residential customers we remain connected to the utility while supporting clean power generation - and job creation - in the state. That is a good thing, and the utilities should continue to be required to offer it.

Businesses and institutions also should be able to generate their own renewable, clean power for their energy needs and since they often have large roof or other built surfaces that are ideal for solar panels. Net energy billing should be available to them as well.

In my experience, solar power is terrific. Whether it is through the availability of net metering or other policies, solar power should be much more aggressively encouraged - not attacked and hampered as these bills seek to do. I hope that sometime soon the Committee will be considering bills that expand this clean energy source and ways in which to make it even more available and affordable to all in Maine.

Meanwhile, please reject these three harmful bills.

Thank you.