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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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**Testimony Neither For Nor Against**  
**LD 1332 – An Act Regarding Net Energy Billing Limits**

April 13, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, honorable members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) testifies neither for nor against LD [1332](#), *An Act Regarding Net Energy Billing Limits*. This legislation removes the ten-customer limitation on net energy billing (NEB) arrangements applicable to investor-owned transmission and distribution (T&D) utilities that provide service in the territory administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine.

During its 2019 session, the Legislature enacted, *An Act To Promote Solar Energy Projects and Distributed Generation Resources in Maine*, P.L. 2019, Chapter 478 (codified at 35-A M.R.S. §§ [3209-A](#) and [3209-B](#)). The 2019 Act made substantial changes to Maine’s Net Energy Billing (NEB) program with respect to investor-owned T&D utilities, including increasing the maximum capacity of eligible NEB facilities from 660 KW to less than 5 MW; replacing the ownership requirement with a “financial interest” requirement; and eliminating any limit on the number of meters or accounts that can be associated with an eligible facility (the prior limit was 10 meters or accounts). The provision in the 2019 Act that removed the limit on the number of meters or accounts contains an exception for service located in northern Maine, stating that the limit is 10 unless the Commission determines that the utility’s billing system can accommodate more than 10 meters or accounts.

As required by the 2019 Act, the Commission conducted a rulemaking proceeding to implement the changes to the NEB program, *Amendments to Chapter 313-Net Energy Billing* (Docket No. [2019-00197](#)). During the rulemaking process, the Commission requested comments from Emera Maine (now Versant Power) on whether its billing system could accommodate more than 10 meters or accounts. Emera Maine responded that its system could not accommodate more than 10 meters or accounts and no other

commenter stated that limit in northern Maine should be removed. Thus, the adopted rule limits the number of meter or accounts in northern Maine to 10.

The Commission suggests that in considering this bill, the Committee seek information from Versant Power regarding the current ability of its system to accommodate more than 10 meters or accounts and/or the cost of adding that capability.

The Commission welcomes any questions and will be present for the work session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garrett Corbin", is enclosed in a white rectangular box.

Garrett Corbin  
Legislative Liaison

cc: Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee Members  
Deirdre Schneider and Daniel Tartakoff, Legislative Analysts