



SOLAR ENERGY ASSOCIATION OF MAINE

Testimony in Support of L.D. 1332

An Act Regarding Net Energy Billing Limits

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Solar Energy Association of Maine

To the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and other members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology: my name is Steve Weems, Executive Director of the Solar Energy Association of Maine. We are happy to voice our support for LD 1332.

The Solar Energy Association of Maine (SEAM) is a broad coalition of solar energy supporters, advocating for the development of solar electricity of all project sizes and ownership models, for the benefit of all Maine people. It is a not-for-profit corporation governed by a diverse Board of Directors.

It probably has been necessary and wise to limit the number of participants with a shared financial interest in net energy billing (NEB) and other distributed generation (DG) projects to 10 accounts or meters, in the service territory of an investor-owned transmission and distribution utility (Versant) located in an area administered by the independent system administrator for northern Maine. Now, however, Versant reports that its billing system has been upgraded sufficiently to drop this limitation, which is what this bill would accomplish.

Now it is time for Versant and its customers to enjoy the same opportunities as those of Central Maine Power. Northern Maine residents, businesses, schools, municipalities, and other Versant customers should be able to participate fully in the clean energy economy, including NEB and smaller solar

distributed energy resource (DER) projects (under 5 megawatts). Additionally, this will benefit Maine people by accelerating the process of meeting the State's de-carbonization goals, by opening up northern Maine for such projects – think how important Aroostook County has been for wind energy resources, for example.

It is just time to drop the existing customer numerical limitation, now that Versant's billing technology is catching up with statewide solar policy. While literally it may be possible to accomplish this by Public Utilities Commission (PUC) rulemaking, it would be clearer and more direct to eliminate the northern Maine limit of 10 accounts or meters per NEB or DG energy project. Since this is the sole purpose of LD 1332, we recommend its passage.