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**Via Electronic Delivery**

<https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony>

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Mark Lawrence  
The Honorable Seth Berry  
Co-Chairs  
The Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
c/o Legislative Information  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: **LD 1350: "An Act To Expand Maine's Clean Energy Economy"**

Dear Sen. Lawrence, Rep. Berry and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony regarding LD 1499.

ReEnergy Biomass Operations owns and operates two biomass power facilities in Maine that generate baseload renewable electricity. At these facilities in Livermore Falls and Stratton, we use sustainably harvested forest and mill residue as fuel to generate homegrown, renewable electricity. These facilities directly employ about 50 people and support hundreds more jobs in the logging and trucking industries while providing the forestry industry an important revenue stream for their wood residues. The facilities generate approximately 640,000 megawatt-hours of baseload renewable electricity each year, which is enough to supply power to 83,000 homes.

We appreciate all that this committee has done in recent years to enhance the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard and to incentivize the development and continued operation of renewable resources.

We are proud to represent a portion of the State's critical baseline of existing renewable energy resources, which serve as a foundation on which to add new resources. We are in favor of additional procurements to support renewable resources in Maine, but believe the State would be far more likely to achieve its ambitious renewable energy goals if it continues to take measures to ensure the viability and preservation of its existing renewable energy resources. As such, we believe this legislation should allow existing Class 1A resources the opportunity to compete in the proposed procurement on a level playing field with facilities that begin commercial operation after June 30, 2021.

ReEnergy is not requesting a certain percentage of load or megawatts come from existing facilities but simply allowing those generators the opportunity to bid. Allowing all Class 1A resources the ability to submit proposals would ensure robust competition and would deliver the best combination of ratepayer and in-state economic benefits.

Existing baseload facilities like biomass require ongoing capital investment in order to maintain safety and improve efficiency. The revenue certainty that comes with a competitively awarded energy and/or

REC contract allows for long-term planning to improve the assets and keep renewable energy jobs in Maine.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Thibodeau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Thibodeau  
Regional Manager