



Testimony in Support of LD 1350
An Act To Expand Maine's Clean Energy Economy
April 20, 2021

Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Berry, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology, my name is James Cote and I am here today on behalf of Versant Power to testify in support of LD 1350.

As we chart the course that will allow us to accomplish our State's shared and ambitious climate objectives, it is important that we do so in a way that maximizes benefits to customers while minimizing cost. This is true across project sizes, technologies and locations. Versant Power believes – and recent experience has shown – that projects with larger economies of scale can maximize not only positive climate and economic development impacts, they can also provide significant benefit to electric customers.

Additionally, Versant Power is particularly supportive of the provision contained within this legislation that would give consideration to economically depressed areas in the State. The Versant Power service territory in Northern and Eastern Maine offers a range of high quality renewable energy resources, and incentivizing renewable development in appropriately sited locations in this region would be a tremendous boost to our rural economy and will ensure that the benefits of the major energy transitions underway will be spread equitably across the citizens of our state

Finally, as you have heard us discuss previously, we also support the ability of energy storage systems to participate in this program. We understand that the committee continues to deliberate on energy storage policies more broadly, but incentivizing creative discussions and proposals on this now essential technology makes a lot of sense.

As with any procurement, there will always be longer-term considerations about technical issues associated with large-scale renewable energy deployment and Versant Power looks forward to being a collaborative, productive- and trusted- partner during those discussions.

We would be happy to provide any information that might be helpful for the work session. Thank you for your consideration.