

April 20, 2021

Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee  
Hon. Senator Mark Lawrence, Chair  
Hon. Representative Seth Berry, Chair  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

**Re: LD 1350, 'An Act to Expand Maine's Clean Energy Economy.'**

Dear Members of the Committee on Energy Utilities and Technology,

I write today on behalf of Reed & Reed, one of northern New England's largest and most versatile general contractors. Our company was founded as a bridge-building firm in 1928 by Captain Josiah W. Reed and his son Carlton Day Reed, and has prospered under four generations of family leadership to build a long-standing reputation for excellence.

At the outset, we'd like to express our appreciation for this committee's efforts to catalyze the growth of Maine's renewable energy sector. Renewable energy projects represent a significant portion of Reed & Reed's business around the country and our company stands ready to help this committee meet your energy and climate goals.

Unfortunately, due to the structure of the most recent procurement enabled by LD 1494 two years ago, our employees have not been able to get to work on renewable energy projects in their home state. Although all renewable energy resources were allowed to participate, the critical factor that separated winning projects from unsuccessful bids was any need for additional transmission. The fact of the matter is that new, large-scale wind energy projects in Maine will all need significant new transmission, leaving them at a competitive disadvantage to solar projects in particular.

As this committee considers how to shape of a new potential procurement cycle, we respectfully urge you to consider the findings of the Renewable Energy Market Assessment, which the Governor's Energy Office issued in February and which underscores the role that wind energy should play in Maine's future procurement strategy. First is the overall size of the additional procurement needed to meet Maine's 2030 RPS goal, which the Assessment pegs at 800-900 megawatts, significantly larger than LD 1350 contemplates. The Assessment also concludes that onshore wind power,

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particularly in Western and Northern Maine, should be a centerpiece of future procurements because of wind power's high capacity factor, low cost and overall feasibility.

With beneficial electrification expected to dramatically increase Maine's electric load in the coming years, wind power is likely to have a significantly higher value over solar on a dollar-per-megawatt-hour basis over the next 25 years. That's because wind farms deliver power to the grid during the winter months, when energy costs are at their highest. To put it another way, making investments in wind facilities now will reduce energy costs later. To that end, Reed & Reed suggests any future procurement include a production-weighted methodology that considers the attributes of each fuel type over time to accurately value each resource. We would also recommend that Maine set a consistent, longer-term procurement plan to avoid stop-and-start procurement cycles.

Maine is at an exciting juncture for renewable energy, between the leadership of this committee, our own Governor Mills and the direction set by the Biden administration at the federal level. Renewable energy projects are exactly the right kind of infrastructure needed to build a more sustainable future while bringing much-needed growth to our state, which has endured great economic hardship due to the COVID pandemic. We very much hope the committee will seize the opportunity and pass transformative renewable energy legislation this session.

Respectfully,

Jackson A. Parker  
Chairman & CEO

Jackson Parker  
Woolwich

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