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*Testimony of Sen. Eloise Vitelli introducing  
**LD 1350, An Act To Expand Maine's Clean Energy Economy**  
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
April 20, 2021*

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, fellow members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, my name is Eloise Vitelli, and I represent Senate District 23, which includes all of Sagadahoc County and the Town of Dresden in Lincoln County. I am before you today to introduce LD 1350, "An Act To Expand Maine's Clean Energy Economy."

This bill builds on the important progress we've made in the last couple of years in growing Maine's renewable energy sources. My bill LD 1494 from the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature set in statute the requirement that 80% of Maine's electricity come from renewable resources by 2030, with a goal of 100% by 2050. As highlighted by the Renewable Energy Goals Market Assessment, we will need additional clean energy sources to meet these goals.

To that end, LD 1350 authorizes the Public Utilities Commission to conduct two additional rounds of competitive clean energy procurement, focused solely on new projects beginning operations after June of this year. In total, these new projects must provide enough clean electricity amounting to 15% of Maine's total electricity sales in 2019.

Importantly, this bill also installs some due diligence measures so that we can be sure new clean energy projects have the best chance of success and of benefitting Maine people. As we continue building our clean energy infrastructure, we have the opportunity to bring sustainable jobs to every corner of our State. LD 1350 directs the PUC to consider the local economic landscape of proposed sites in considering bids, so that these new projects can optimize their economic impact.

When I introduced LD 1494 in the 129<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Gov. Mills had just formed the Climate Council. Now, two years later, we have the fruits of that Council's labor in the form of the Maine Won't Wait report. We have more information than ever before about the threats posed by climate change, and the actions we must take to reduce or mitigate those threats. Diversifying and expanding our renewable energy sources is critical to protecting our economy, environment, and public health from the devastating effects of climate change.

Thank you for your consideration of this legislation. I would be happy to take any questions.