

Robert Wood  
The Nature Conservancy in Maine  
LD 1350

Dear Sen. Lawrence, Rep. Berry, and EUT Committee members,

During yesterday's work session on LD 1350, the Committee discussed amending the bill to provide preference for renewable energy projects located on PFAS-contaminated land. Based on the Committee discussion and follow-up conversations, the groups signed below support the following language, and we encourage swift passage of the bill with this language:

C. In conducting a solicitation and selecting Class IA resources for contracts under this section, the commission, in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Department of Environmental Protection, shall weigh the benefits to ratepayers and the benefits to the State's economy of solicited bids as follows:

- (1) A weight of 70% must be given to the benefits to ratepayers; and
- (2) A weight of 15% must be given to the extent to which the project utilizes previously developed or contaminated lands or otherwise minimizes impacts to natural lands or to working lands, including but not limited to use of agricultural land the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has found to be contaminated with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances, as defined in Title 38, section 1614; and
- (2)(3) A weight of 30% 15% must be given to benefits to the economy, which may include, but are not limited to:
  - (a) Capital investments by the Class IA resource to improve long-term viability of an existing facility;
  - (b) Payments by the Class IA resource for the harvest of wood fuel;
  - (c) Employment resulting from the Class IA resource;
  - (d) Payments by the Class IA resource to a host community, whether or not required by law or rule;
  - (e) Excise, income, property and sales taxes paid by the Class IA resource;
  - (f) Purchases of goods and services by the Class IA resource; and
  - (g) Avoided emissions resulting from the operation of the Class IA resource.

LD 1350 is important to meeting the State's climate and renewable energy goals that we all share. These additional tweaks will support the bill's parallel goal of ensuring that the program is responsive to current opportunities to repurpose degraded land for renewable energy and support Maine's farmers. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rob Wood, The Nature Conservancy in Maine  
Ellen Griswold, Maine Farmland Trust  
Eliza Donoghue, Maine Audubon  
Bob Cleaves, Dirigo Solar  
Jeremy Payne, Maine Renewable Energy Association