

May 11, 2021

RE: Testimony in Support of LD 1659 – An Act to Create the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator

Dear Chairs Lawrence and Berry, and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1659 - An Act to Create the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator.

We, as people of this state, and of this planet, are at the point where we need bold, swift action to implement our Climate Action Goals in an equitable and sustainable manner. The creation of a Maine Clean Energy Accelerator NOW will put us in a position to reap the benefits of federal funding, and public and private financing, to further our state's climate action goals, and in turn bring much needed green jobs and investment into our communities. Living in a coastal Maine village, I am all too aware of the risks and downfalls of relying solely on seasonal tourism to support our citizens. The biggest barrier to clean energy projects is the cost to start them up. This legislation will help to decrease risk for lenders, reduce borrowing costs, and reduce loan limitations. Not only would the proposed accelerator make it easier to finance clean energy and energy efficiency projects, but it would do so in an equitable manner. All the while, lifting up, and putting to work, people in our communities, with solid, good-paying, year-round employment. It is solutions like these, that will enable Maine to set an example, and be at the forefront of a bold, new clean energy future. A future in which it's citizens are able to partake in, and be part of, that solution.

I strongly urge you to support LD 1659 in an effort to open the path to a cleaner energy future for Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Armstrong  
Kennebunkport, ME