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I am a resident of Northport who believes strongly that for the good of the world and our local communities we must transition to green energy and away from fossil fuels as rapidly as possible. We also must decrease our energy use through enhanced energy efficiency in buildings and in transportation. While the technology continues to improve, and to decrease in price, green energy is now one of the fastest growing sectors of the US economy, and we have the technology to make this transition within the next two decades. We can see the negative effects of climate change already. Waiting to act is not an option. Green energy also means good, well-paying jobs for Mainers.

My husband I have been lucky enough to be able to improve the energy efficiency of our home and to install both solar PV and solar thermal systems, along with an electric heat pump. Our solar systems paid for themselves in about 5 years. Our oil furnace has been off for three years. Even with available federal and state incentives, most families could not afford to make such changes. Further, individual actions, while important, will not be sufficient without large-scale development of solar and wind. LD 1659 An Act To Create the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator would provide essential support to individuals and businesses for incentivizing energy transition and efficiency projects. I strongly support this legislation.

This legislation is designed to both increase the availability of financing and decrease interest rates and risk for lenders, making financing widely available for energy efficiency, and clean energy production. As a result of this legislation and other complementary state and federal programs homeowners and business owners will be able to go to nearly any local lender in the state to finance efficiency and clean energy improvements, just like they can go to any of these lenders for a home mortgage or car loan.

Across Maine, low-income families spend large portions of their income on heating with fossil fuels and they also have the greatest need for efficiency improvements. LD 1659 specifically calls for 40% of funding to be directed to low-income communities and communities of color, to assist those who need it most.

Thank you Representative Zeigler for proposing this legislation.
LD 1659 will be good for the Maine economy and for the environment.
I urge the committee to support this critical legislation.