

Shawn McCarty
Rockland

Testimony in Favor of Creating the Pine Tree Power Company

I have been using photovoltaics as a homeowner for over 18 years. Today, even though overcast, the system on the roof of my garage generated 4 times the energy my home used. I am also an avid cyclist. At my full-on, heart racing, huffing and puffing, groaning and complaining maximum effort, I can briefly generate 300 watts of power. Pretty good? Well, each of the 28 panels in my array puts out 310 watts but with none of the drama! I stare at them in awe and respect. They cost me less than \$150 each, and each day each one will work harder than I can.

I have a net metering agreement with CMP. I have three ways to monitor my daily use and generation. Two agree with each other, one does not. The outlier is CMP. CMP consistently says that I generate a few KWH less per day than my other two systems read, and that I use a few KWH more a day than my other systems read. Funny how that works to their advantage.

It took them over a month to approve my grid tie application, but they never came to inspect it. The application fee was \$100.

The electrification of Maine is stalled and complicated by a for profit distribution system. Right Now we need to have all players working for the same team. We cannot afford a team member acting in their own interest. As a member of Rockland's Energy Advisory Board, I cannot tell you how much simpler life would be if we could call the new Pine Tree Power Company and get advice and prices and thoughtful consideration as we build our power generation systems.

We agree that Maine could be First to 100%. And we would love to see our utility payments stay in Maine. We are willing to work hard and do all we can to curb global warming and to meet Maine's ambitious goals. But please untie our hands from behind our backs so we have a fighting chance by supporting Pine Tree Power.

Shawn McCarty
member of
Rockland Energy Advisory Board