

**State JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES, AND
TECHNOLOGY**

Testimony of Catherine Dickerson, Bangor ME

May 24th, 2023

Testimony in Support

**LD 1986: An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage
Systems.**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and honorable members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee. My name is Catherine Dickerson, and I am a resident of Bangor. I am writing in support of **LD 1986 An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems.**

I'm writing in support of LD 1986. Community-owned, cooperative solar projects are critical, not only because they provide a structure to fairly allocate net energy billing costs and benefits, accounting for avoided transmission, distribution, and fossil fuel costs, but also because the legislation would also ensure that net energy billing benefits accrue to ratepayers. And, we need to act now to address climate change and encourage meaningful, solutions that help. Maine Can't Wait.

I urge you to pass LD 1986 rather than LD 1347. While LD 1986 would support the continued growth of distributed energy in a way that is beneficial to low and moderate-income ratepayers, LD 1347 would revoke important components of net energy billing that make community-benefitting projects viable. In effect, LD 1347 would pose a significant barrier to low and moderate-income solar ownership in Maine and in doing so, prevent Maine communities from accessing federal funding for solar.

In closing, please pass LD 1986, legislation which will improve net energy billing, benefit Maine ratepayers, allow Maine to leverage significant federal funds, and protect the viability of community-benefitting solar projects, such as ours. Thank you for your service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,

Catherine Dickerson
Bangor, ME