



Testimony in support of LD1986 filed by Sen. Lawrence

**An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy and  
Storage Systems**

May 24, 2023

Chair Lawrence, Chair Zeigler and members of the Energy, Utilities and  
Technology Committee,

My name is Carolyn Dykema and I am the Director of Northeast Policy for  
Nexamp. I appreciate this opportunity to offer testimony on LD 1986 filed by Sen.  
Lawrence and Rep. Zeigler and to support testimony offered by our trade partners  
CCSA and MREA.

Nexamp is a veteran-founded, vertically integrated clean energy company and the  
largest community solar provider in the country with offices in Portland, ME and  
headquartered in Boston, MA. As owner-operators of our projects, Nexamp is  
invested in Maine for the long term and committed to forging strong partnerships  
with state policymakers, landowners, and our many Maine customers which  
include municipalities, non-profits, small businesses as well as residents of all  
income levels.

We strongly support this legislation, which builds on Maine's progress since 2019,  
adding renewable energy to the electric grid while providing clean energy benefits

to Mainers across the state. We appreciate that the bill is founded on the extensive and collaborative work of the Distributed Generation Stakeholder group convened by the Governor's Energy Office, and its recommendations for a cost-effective successor program allowing for continued development of renewable energy projects and continued progress toward Maine's clean energy goals.

Specifically, Nexamp supports empowering the GEO with creating a program that allows continued development of projects that are between 1-5MW, with a requirement for projects to be co-located with energy storage. Calculations from the GEO stakeholder group showed that a well designed storage requirement will significantly boost the benefits from installed projects and maximize energy and resiliency benefits of solar projects to the state.

Importantly, the bill will also ensure that Maine is able to leverage new federal dollars, including federal Greenhouse Gas Reduction funds, to bring savings and clean energy benefits to Mainers of limited means. This measure will not only bring new funding into the state in support of renewable energy projects but most importantly, has the potential to make a real impact in the lives of residents who are in greatest need.

LD1986 will also give the GEO the flexibility to design a program that continues to encourage direct participation of municipalities and non-profits who have been

active participants in the current NEB program, many of whom are Nexamp customers, and who to date have been on the front lines driving Maine's clean energy transition.

Finally, the legislation proposes meaningful changes in the methodology that is transparent and fully accounts for the costs and many, varied benefits of the NEB program to Mainers and ratepayers.

Nexamp is particularly appreciative that the legislation respects existing NEB contracts and doesn't propose any retroactive changes that would impact these contracts.

We thank Sen. Lawrence for his leadership in putting forward this thoughtful proposal and for the opportunity to offer this testimony. We respectfully request that the committee give this legislation a favorable report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Dykema', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Dykema

Northeast Policy Director

Nexamp

