

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

Testimony of Margaret Jeffery, Bar Harbor Emergency Task Force

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 Margaret Jeffery, and I am a member of the Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Task Force. I am writing in support of **LD 1986 An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems.**

As a member of the Bar Harbor Climate Emergency Task Force, I have seen firsthand how local, distributed solar projects benefit communities. Bar Harbor's Climate Action Plan calls for reaching a net zero emissions community by 2030, a goal that is highly dependent on state-level policies that are supportive of solar. LD 1986 would support local communities, such as Bar Harbor, in achieving our climate and renewable energy goals.

LD 1986 would protect ratepayers while ensuring that net energy billing projects are fairly compensated for avoided distribution and transmission costs. LD 1986 would resolve current issues with net energy billing and benefit consumers by lowering rates over the long-term. LD 1347, on the other hand, which will be reviewed during the Committee's working session tomorrow, poses a direct threat to community-benefitting solar projects. LD 1347 would remove components of net energy billing that make solar ownership more accessible to low and moderate-income Mainers. In contrast, LD 1986 offers a more favorable, and balanced solution that follows recommendations from the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group and protects ratepayers, while protecting net energy billing that makes solar ownership viable for all incomes.

In closing, I urge you to pass LD 1986, legislation which supports community and state climate goals while protecting ratepayers. Thank you for your service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,



Margaret Jeffery, Bar Harbor Emergency Task Force

Margaret Jeffery
Bar Harbor
LD 1986

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