

Philip Lichtenstein, Mount Desert Sustainability Committee

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 Philip Lichtenstein, and I am a member of the Mount Desert Sustainability Committee. I am writing in support of **LD 1986 An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems.**

The Town of Mount Desert has a Climate Action Plan that charts the town's pathway towards a goal of net zero emissions. Our plan has a strong focus on developing local renewable energy and storage resources in our community. LD 1986 would support Mount Desert and other local communities, in benefiting from renewable energy and achieving our climate goals.

While LD 1986 would support the development of local solar projects, it would also protect ratepayers and provide long-term average reduction in rates. This legislation is consistent with the recommendations of the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group and will develop a fair compensation structure for net energy billing projects, accounting for the benefits they supply to the grid. In contrast, LD 1347, which will be reviewed during the Committee's working session tomorrow, would remove components of net energy billing that make solar ownership more accessible to low and moderate-income Mainers. LD 1347 would be harmful to solar energy goals of communities like Mount Desert and prevent our low and moderate-income residents from accessing solar benefits.

In closing, I urge you to pass LD 1986, legislation which supports the solar efforts of communities such as Mount Desert. Thank you for your service to the people of Maine.

Sincerely,



Philip Lichtenstein, Mount Desert Sustainability Committee