

Andrew Vardakis
WSP (formerly Wood)
LD 1986

Dear members of the Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee:
We support Maine's net energy billing program because it provides critical electric bill savings while supporting the development of local, clean energy.

Community solar is a powerful solution to provide access to solar energy for all Mainers. Some of us are homeowners with a roof or property that is not suitable for solar. Some of us rent the homes we live in or the spaces where we do business. Many of our fellow customers cannot afford the large upfront capital investment to purchase their own solar installations. But all of us think that homegrown, renewable energy is good for Maine, and all of us want to be able to realize cost savings from our solar investment, just as those that are privileged enough to own their own rooftop system are able to earn a return on their investment. Community solar has been a simple, affordable option for us, and we believe it should remain an option for our neighbors and fellow Mainers.

We are also highly concerned with calls to change the net energy billing rates for existing projects and those about to become operational. We strongly urge the Legislature to avoid adopting any policies that would impact those savings and our ability to participate in the program. Further, we encourage the Legislature to take action to ensure community solar can continue to serve more customers, especially low-income and disadvantaged customers, well into the future.

Please vote NO on LD 1347 and YES on LD 1986.

Sincerely,
Andrew Vardakis