



State of Maine
Office of the Public Advocate
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Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Barry J. Hobbins
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

March 5, 2019

Chairman Lawrence, Chairman Berry and Members of the Energy, Utilities and
Technology Committee,

The Office of the Public Advocate (“OPA”) testifies neither for nor against
LD 790 “An Act To Eliminate the Cap on the Number of Accounts or Meters
Designated for Net Energy Billing” which bill prohibits the Public Utilities
Commission (“PUC”) from adopting or amending net energy billing rules pursuant to
the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A, section 3209-A to impose any limit on the
number of accounts or meters that customers may designate for net energy billing or
any limit on the number of customers that may share an interest in a generation
facility for which the energy output is credited as part of any net energy billing.

LD 790 is one of many proposed bills that will come before you this session
relating to the topic of net energy billing. Needless to say, and as you know net
energy billing is a complicated subject.

Other bills have been proposed either to “tweak” or completely rework the
process of net energy billing. This bill is a small tweak with potentially large
consequences and overlooks many of the implications and suggestions of other
proposed bills.

This is an important topic and has already had a significant amount of
stakeholder discussion and should be addressed in a comprehensive manner. The
Office of the Public Advocate respectfully suggests that all net energy billing related
legislation be directed to stakeholders for review and further discussion and would be
an active participant in such a group.

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 790, and will be present at the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Barry J. Hobbins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "B".

Barry J. Hobbins
Public Advocate