



LD 1777, An Act to Reduce Costs and Increase Customer Protections for the State's Net Energy Billing Program

LD 1777 will save Mainers more than \$61 million next year alone, stop unfair billing practices, and protect the future of clean energy. It is a responsible, balanced solution that will help lower costs and protect consumers from confusing or unfair solar billing practices. It also ends the cycle of revising the 2019 community solar program and puts us on a path toward a new, sustainable solar development model.

What does LD 1777 do?

- **Cuts electricity costs & saves Maine ratepayers over \$61 million next year** and similar amounts each year for the next 16 years.
- **Fixes flaws** in the current net energy billing programs that have led to over \$235 million in additional costs for Maine electricity consumers each year—a number that will keep rising if we don't act.
- **Protects consumers** with new rules to stop solar oversubscription and from having to pay for more credits than they can use.
- **Creates fairer solar project payments** by ending the link between solar developer compensation and rising utility rates.
- **Exempts rooftop and cooperatively owned solar from changes**, protecting the investments of Maine homeowners, municipalities, and businesses.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will this bill bankrupt solar developers? No, the compensation rates in this bill were carefully crafted to rein in costs without going too far. The changes are carefully tiered based on project size. The bill also includes an escape hatch to allow existing projects to sell their solar power to our grid without adding new community solar subscribers.

Will this bill harm the future of solar in Maine? No, it supports the Maine solar industry by right sizing the costs of the existing program and pointing us toward a future program with smarter cost controls and incentives for battery storage.

Is it too rushed? No, it is the result of extensive negotiation and public input. The EUT Committee heard dozens of hours of public hearing testimony and held many work sessions and countless conversations with stakeholders to arrive at this carefully balanced compromise package of reforms.

Does this bill go far enough? Yes, even small changes could undo the balance reached between stakeholders. Delays risk derailing \$1.2B in savings over the next 16 years.

Will this bill cause us to miss Maine's climate change goals? No, quite the opposite: without this bill, the runaway costs of the program could derail efforts to electrify home heating through heat pumps, and continued concerns about the costs of this solar program could derail efforts to build future cost-effective renewable generation.

LD 1777 is a balanced solution that will lower energy bills and create a sustainable path for clean energy investment in Maine.