



State of Maine
Office of the Public Advocate
112 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0112
(207) 624-3687 (voice) 711 (TTY)
www.maine.gov/meopa

Heather Sanborn
PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Testimony In Opposition to
LD 1966 “An Act to Improve Access to Community Solar Programs in the
State ”
October 30, 2025**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

My name is Heather Sanborn, here today as Public Advocate, to testify in opposition to LD 1966 “An Act to Improve Access to Community Solar Programs in the State.”

We understand this bill to be chiefly concerned with requiring utilities to facilitate consolidated billing for community solar programs.

While we acknowledge that the current dual billing arrangements associated with community solar subscriptions are cumbersome and confusing for customers, we nonetheless oppose this proposal.

The carefully negotiated provisions of the final version of LD 1777 notably did not include consolidated billing, despite it being included in early draft outlines of the bill that were circulated by the OPA.

It will be the OPA’s position throughout this session that we will not support any further changes to NEB programs that are inconsistent with the carefully crafted set of compromises that are contained in the final version of LD 1777. We believe it is critical for us to be consistent in this position so that we can remain an honest broker for all of the parties with which we worked together painstakingly in developing LD 1777. There will be times when this position of the OPA will be to the detriment of solar developers and other times when it will swing in their favor. Such is the nature of the set of compromises we assembled last session.

I welcome your questions and will of course continue to provide information to assist the Committee in whatever way I can.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Sanborn
Public Advocate