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**Testimony In Opposition to
LD 1531, “Resolve, to Implement a 4-year Moratorium on Solar Energy Subsidies
and Direct the Department of Environmental Protection to Study the Economic
Impact of Industrial Solar Energy Projects”**

April 18, 2023

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

My name is William Harwood and I am here today, as Public Advocate, to testify in opposition to LD 1531, “Resolve, to Implement a 4-year Moratorium on Solar Energy Subsidies and Direct the Department of Environmental Protection to Study the Economic Impact of Industrial Solar Energy Projects.”

A four-year moratorium on solar subsidies is likely to undermine all our collective work to reduce our dependence on natural gas and achieve our climate goals. Rather than a moratorium on subsidies, the OPA urges the Committee to take a close look at both our Net Energy Billing program and our competitive bidding program and make necessary adjustments to each that will result in consumers receiving the most solar at the lowest possible ratepayer subsidy. The OPA looks forward to working with the Committee to reduce the scope of the NEB program and expand the role of competitive bidding to continue expanding the role of solar in meeting our growing need for more electricity.

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 1531 and will be available for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

William S. Harwood
Public Advocate