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**Testimony In Opposition to
LD 509, “An Act to Amend the Net Energy Billing Laws to Require Net Energy
Billing Credits to be Nonlapsing”**

March 2, 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 the Public Advocate, here today to testify in opposition to LD 509, “An Act to Amend the Net Energy Billing Laws to Require Net Energy Billing Credits to be Nonlapsing.”

The OPA agrees with the current law, which creates an important incentive to “right size” distributed generation solar. If a customer has credits banked for longer than 12 months, it likely means that their subscription size is too large and that they should re-negotiate their subscription size with the project sponsor. It is better for customers to do this sooner rather than later to avoid paying for even more unnecessary credits. For single owner rooftop solar facilities, the expiration rule provides a strong incentive for customers to “right size” their installations according to their usage.

Under current law, expired Net Energy Billing (NEB) kWh credits are used to benefit low-income customers. The OPA strongly supports using the financial benefits of expiring NEB bill credits to directly support PUC approved assistance for low-income ratepayers.

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 509 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