The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:


Under Title 35-A, M.R.S. §3210(3-A), Maine’s Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) has included a requirement: for electricity customers to purchase increasing amounts of electricity from qualified “new renewable capacity resources” (Class I resources), starting in 2008 as a 1% requirement and ending in 2017 as a 10% requirement. LD 1147 would extend the 10% requirement through 2022.

The RPS in Maine is a subsidy paid to renewable generators that is hidden in the bills of all electric customers. I have long opposed such subsidies—especially hiding them in Maine’s electric bills. In addition, this subsidy is not even meeting its intended purpose, which is to encourage new renewable electricity generation. Over the five-year period between 2011 and 2015, the Class I RPS cost ratepayers nearly $70 million in above-market costs. Yet, over this same period, the amount of renewable generation produced in Maine decreased by approximately 8%. Therefore, Mainers spent $70 million and received no increase in the amount of renewable generation produced in Maine.

A subsidy that costs Maine ratepayers $70 million over five years, but fails to meet its intended purpose, is a subsidy that needs to end.

For these reasons, I return LD 1147 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor