



Testimony to the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

in support of

LD 1955, An Act To Facilitate Net Energy Billing

2-22-22

Amy Winston

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Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee:

My name is Amy Winston. I live in Edgecomb and am testifying as state policy director in support of LD 1955, on behalf of Coastal Enterprises, Inc. (CEI) and our subsidiary, Bright Community Capital (BCC). CEI helps to grow good jobs, environmentally sustainable enterprises, and shared prosperity in Maine and other rural regions by integrating financing, business and industry expertise, and policy solutions. We envision a world in which communities are economically and environmentally healthy, enabling all people, especially those with low incomes, to reach their full potential. BCC was founded by CEI to expand access to solar energy production in rural and low-income communities through installations on affordable housing, community facilities and municipal buildings.

CEI and BCC support the development of standards and procedures related to net energy billing which are intended to ensure transparency and consistency in specific areas such as customer protection, treatment of customer data, crediting procedures, project disclosure (including credit rate per kilowatt-hour) and prompt correction and compensation for billing errors incurred because of transmission and distribution utility practices. In addition, the creation of and public access to information received as part of an administrative complaint process related to net energy billing projects will help current and prospective net energy billing consumers understand the implications of their subscription and how the billing works. Further, this will reduce unnecessary costs resulting from and avoid preventable future net energy billing errors.

The information sharing, procedural and compliance requirements established in this legislation will reduce confusion and increase meaningful and intentional participation in this sector by project sponsors, utilities, and consumers. Timely delivery of net energy billing data, crediting, and a mechanism for the public to access this data in real time will foster a fair and equitable net energy billing system that will build a resilient solar energy industry to help Maine achieve 100% renewable energy standards to be carbon neutral by 2050 (as set out in the [Maine Won't Wait](#) Climate Action Plan).

Thank you for considering our testimony on this practical bill. We would be glad to answer any questions or provide additional information that might assist the committee with its decision on LD 1955.