

The Maine Heritage Policy Center Testimony to Oppose LD 1282

"An Act To Establish a Green New Deal for Maine"

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and distinguished members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, my name is Adam Crepeau and I serve as a policy analyst at The Maine Heritage Policy Center. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to LD 1282.

The Maine Heritage Policy Center is opposed to this legislation because it would do little to benefit Mainers. In fact, this legislation would favor some industries over others by picking which energy providers would be able to service the state of Maine. The current portfolio standard is 30 percent and this bill would require providers to increase its portfolio supply of retail electricity to 80 percent. While this may be well-intentioned, it would do little to mitigate the impact of climate change overall.

The state of Maine contributes 0.3 percent of the overall electricity generated in the United States.¹ According to the United States Energy Information Administration, approximately three quarters of Maine's net energy generation came from renewable resources in 2017.² More specifically, 30 percent was produced through hydroelectricity, 26 percent from biomass and 20 percent from wind. What would this legislation accomplish aside from growing the size and scope of government and putting mandates on electricity providers?

Too often, some renewable resources, such as solar and wind, are propped up while others are limited by arbitrary caps on energy production. If we are truly concerned about the state becoming "greener", this committee has an obligation to lift the arbitrary 100 megawatt cap on hydropower energy production in the state of Maine. The following questions must be answered: Why is this cap in place, and how does it benefit Mainers? Couldn't we reach our renewable energy goals by removing the arbitrary cap instead of enacting LD 1282?

Because this bill would limit market access for electricity providers and Maine's energy generation is already produced by mostly renewable resources, The Maine Heritage Policy Center urges the committee to vote, "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 1282.

¹ <https://www.eia.gov/state/data.php?sid=ME#SupplyDistribution>

² <https://www.eia.gov/renewable/state/Maine/>