

## **The Maine Heritage Policy Center Testimony to Oppose LD 1494 “An Act To Reform Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard”**

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 providing me an opportunity to testify in opposition to LD 1494.

The Maine Heritage Policy Center is opposed to LD 1494 because it would inevitably pick winners and losers in the energy generation sector. We are opposed to any bills that would create mandates for businesses and more red tape for entities that operate in the state of Maine. While the goal of this bill is likely to become greener and alleviate climate change, new mandates would have little impact on the climate overall. In other words, this bill would create more red tape without making a significant difference in reducing carbon emissions.

First and foremost, this bill would remove the 100 megawatt (MW) cap for solar, which would show favoritism to one industry over most others. Proposals that would have lifted the cap on hydroelectricity in the state have failed numerous times before this body; the latest bill produced a divided report out of this committee. The Legislature's decision in 2009 to lift the 100 MW cap for wind facilities, while maintaining the restriction on other types of renewable resources, reeked of economic favoritism. This proposal is no different.

In addition to lifting the cap on solar and placing it in the same category as wind facilities, this bill would require electricity providers to increase their new renewable resources portfolio to 50 percent by 2030 - up from the current 10 percent.<sup>1</sup> By doing this, the state would be deciding which electricity providers can operate and which ones cannot. The Maine Heritage Policy Center believes the free market should drive which electricity providers operate in the state of Maine.

According to the United States Energy Information Administration, three-quarters of the electricity generated in Maine came from renewable energy resources.<sup>2</sup> Maine also ranks 45th in total carbon dioxide emissions, producing approximately 0.3 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions in the United States.<sup>3</sup> In essence, electricity providers could produce 50 percent of their energy from renewable resources tomorrow with little overall impact or benefit on the environment.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://legislature.maine.gov/statutes/35-A/title35-A-sec3210.html>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/state/?sid=ME>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.eia.gov/state/rankings/?sid=ME#series/226>

Because this bill would show favoritism to the solar and wind industry and would require electricity providers to increase their new renewable resources portfolio to 50 percent without tangible benefits, The Maine Heritage Policy Center urges the committee to vote, "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 1494. Thank you.