

**The Maine Heritage Policy Center
Testimony to Oppose LD 2055
“An Act To Require State Agencies To Use Renewable
and Sustainable Energy and Reduce Greenhouse Gas
Emissions”**

Senator Claxton, Representative Martin and distinguished members of the Committee on State and Local Government, 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 2055.

The Maine Heritage Policy Center’s primary concern with LD 2055 is the cost to implement it in Maine. According to the bill, each office and department in Maine would need to appoint sustainability coordinators to develop and implement plans for the agencies to meet or exceed renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions targets and timelines. Would this responsibility be something that could be undertaken by current staff or would these departments need to hire new positions to meet the requirements in this bill? Hiring new staff would undoubtedly cost taxpayer dollars.

In addition to potential staff expenses, subsection 2 mentions that solar panels or similar solar technologies must be considered and included wherever possible. When solar panels were installed on the Blaine House property, there was conclusive evidence that they would not pay for themselves, despite claims that they would. That project cost approximately \$63,000 and will only “save” approximately \$55,000 over its projected lifetime.¹ That’s a loss of \$8,000 from just one building — that additional cost will likely be compounded for each state agency that decides to take a similar approach.

The state’s offices and departments should do what makes the most sense for Maine taxpayers. This government mandate would cause them to find the most environmentally friendly solutions, whatever the cost. Besides, Maine releases approximately 15 million metric tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, ranking 45th overall.² Moreover, Maine’s forests currently sequester 18 to 45 million metric tons of carbon annually, far exceeding the amount produced by Mainers.³

Put simply, we release less than one percent of carbon emissions in the United States and all of it is consumed by Maine’s forests — and this bill would do nothing to make a dent in reducing carbon emissions in Maine or the United States.

¹ <https://www.maine.gov/dafs/bbm/procurementservices/vendors/rfps/rfp-archives;>
<https://www.maine-public.org/post/solar-panels-going-maine-governors-mansion-property>

² <https://www.eia.gov/state/rankings/?sid=ME#/series/226>

³ <https://www.themainewire.com/2020/01/are-maines-clean-energy-policies-working/>

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THE MAINE HERITAGE POLICY CENTER

To be clear, we want state offices and departments to make environmentally friendly investments if they make sense financially. However, because this bill would likely increase costs for Maine state offices and departments, and subsequently taxpayers without tangible benefits, The Maine Heritage Policy Center urges the committee to vote, "Ought Not to Pass" on LD 2055. Thank you.