

Support LD 1263

Expand Access to Solar Energy in Maine

- Prices for solar panels have fallen 50% in the last five years. However, solar installations require upfront investments.
- **Maine needs to reduce financial and regulatory barriers** to increase access to solar. This bill will cut in half the time it takes for a homeowner to pay-off their solar system, and make us more competitive with our neighboring states.
- Maine is falling far behind other New England states and the U.S. in capturing the job creation and energy security benefits solar provides.
- Solar offers many benefits to Maine including stabilizing energy costs, employing Maine workers with good-paying jobs, and reducing pollution that threatens our climate and oceans.
- Maine has an excellent solar resource; we get 30% more sun than Germany, the world leader in solar energy production.

Representative Gideon's bill (LD 1263) reduces several barriers that limit the ability of Mainers to invest in solar energy including:

- Removing an existing limit (10) on the number of people who can co-own and benefit from a solar project.
- Increasing the size of solar systems that communities or businesses can install to reduce their electric bills.
- The bill calls for Maine to get 2.5% of its electricity from solar by 2022.
- The bill would enable those who install solar to receive solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) for each kilowatt they produce.
- Right now solar power generators are not compensated for the full value of that solar energy they produce. That's not fair. This bill will ensure that people are finally fully compensated.
- If passed, the bill would result in an estimated 10,000 residential projects and nearly 3,000 business or community-based installations!

