

April 9, 2014

Honorable Paul R. LePage
Governor of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Governor,

The undersigned businesses urge you not to veto LD 1252, An Act to Improve Maine's Economy and Energy Security with Solar Energy. This bill provides important short and long-term benefits to the Maine economy by fostering substantial private investment in solar energy. The modest provisions in this bill fit well within a balanced energy policy for Maine.

Local solar installations represent notable investments in the Maine economy and support good quality jobs that cannot be exported. This has been true in the past and that investment is poised to *accelerate* in Maine as it is elsewhere in our region if we continue wise policies. This bill would leverage \$25 million in private investment in Maine by using \$2.5 million in public funds. The bill would have the greatest benefit for *small* businesses.

We share your concern over electric transmission and distribution rates. **Those costs will only continue to grow if we do not pursue policies that foster solutions, like rooftop solar panels, that reduce peak electric demand on the grid.**

Solar heating and hot-water heating projects are also highly cost-effective, and often directly reduce oil consumption. **We commend your emphasis on reducing Maine's dependence on oil, and we see solar as one component of that strategy.** Solar energy is an opportunity to reduce our dependence on imported sources of energy, which continue to create a substantial drag on the Maine economy. We also understand that the bill has been amended to include high-efficiency heat pumps, which adds further energy benefits to the bill.

Many of us have installed solar energy systems on our buildings. We know that solar can reduce energy bills, and contribute broader public benefits to the electric grid and the economy.

Without LD 1252, Maine will see *less* investment in our economy and our energy independence. We respectfully request that you allow LD 1252 to become law.

Sincerely,

(names on reverse)

Lauchlin W. Titus
AgMatters
Vassalboro

Heather & Doug Donahue
Balfour Farm
Pittsfield

Matt Marston
Basics Fitness
South Portland

Eddie Mason
Bucksport Motor Inn
Bucksport

Chris Bryan, PE
CBX Energy Engineering
Waterville

Ron Phillips
Coastal Enterprises, Inc,
Wiscasset

Carla Haskell
Design Group Collaborative
Ellsworth

Tim Downing
Duratherm Window
Vassalboro

Tim Soley
East Brown Cow
Portland

Matt Barter
Flagship Inn
Boothbay

Jim Wellehan
Lamey-Wellehan Shoes
Auburn

Lancey Associates
Pittsfield

Nik Charov
Laudholm Trust
Wells

Mainmast, Ltd
Pittsfield

Steve Mitman
Maine Sugar Works
Strong

Donald Parent, PE
New Concepts Engineering
Windham

Len Price
Nutkin Knoll Farm
Newburgh

Bill Bennett
Oakhurst Dairy
Portland

Stephen Woods
TideSmart Global
Falmouth

Steve Teel
TeelGreen Energy
Alna

Heather Chandler
The Sunrise Guide
Westbrook