



## Maine Needs Clear Solar Policy to Carry Us Forward

Rep. Berry's bill will increase our energy independence and create hundreds of new jobs

***Maine families, businesses, and communities should have every opportunity to generate their own power and increase their energy security with solar***

### Years of uncertainty and inaction are keeping Maine in last place for solar

- Solar power is undergoing an astonishing revolution around the country as prices drop and the amount of solar being built increases.
- Maine is the only state in New England without a comprehensive solar policy. As a result, we lag far behind in the amount of solar installed and the number of solar jobs created.
- Maine's effective solar rebate program lapsed several years ago, and solar companies have been kept guessing about the future of solar policy ever since.
- Now the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has proposed gutting net metering, which is the only thing sustaining Maine's meager solar industry and making it possible for thousands of Maine homeowners and businesses to own and produce their own solar power.



### This bill will create jobs by providing stability and predictability in the solar market

- Maine has been on a "solar-coaster" of unpredictability for years, which has suppressed investment and growth.
- Net metering is the foundation for a stable solar market. A recent poll shows that more than 60% of Maine people oppose the PUC's proposal to roll back net metering.
- Re-establishing Maine's solar rebate program with additional features, including targeting small businesses and low and moderate income Mainers, will increase access to solar by reducing upfront costs. Over six years, the solar rebate could benefit more than 300 small businesses and 3,000 homes.
- The stability of net metering and reducing up-front costs to install solar will protect existing jobs and create new opportunities for Maine's solar workforce.
- Distributed rooftop solar power reduces costs for our electric grid and lowers energy bills for everyone in Maine.

### Maine needs legislative action on solar. This bill will:

- Eliminate the barriers to community solar projects in Maine, allowing hundreds of people to participate in and benefit from a single community solar project.
- Establish net metering in statute, which is fundamental for a predictable solar market.
- Authorize third-party ownership of solar projects, which is available in other states, so that Mainers can access easier financing.
- Create hundreds of new solar jobs, lower energy costs, and provide clean, local energy for Maine people.

## Support An Act to Protect and Expand Access to Solar Power in Maine

For more information, please contact Dylan Voorhees, (207) 430-0112, [dylan@nrcm.org](mailto:dylan@nrcm.org) or Beth Ahearn (207) 671-5071, [beth@protectmaine.org](mailto:beth@protectmaine.org)

The logo for the Environmental Priorities Coalition features the text "Environmental Priorities Coalition" in white on a blue background. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of three green mountains of varying heights, with a light blue wave-like shape at the base representing water.

## Environmental Priorities Coalition

## Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 34 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides.

***We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine communities can thrive***

Acadia Center	Maine People's Alliance
Appalachian Mountain Club	Maine Public Health Association
Atlantic Salmon Federation	Maine Rivers
Bicycle Coalition of Maine	Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Conservation Law Foundation	Midcoast Conservancy
Environmental Health Strategy Center	Natural Resources Council of Maine
Environment Maine	Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter
Friends of Casco Bay	RESTORE: The North Woods
Islesboro Island Trust	Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions	Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative
Maine Audubon	The Ocean Conservancy
Maine Center for Economic Policy	The Trust for Public Land
Maine Conservation Alliance	The Wilderness Society
Maine Council of Churches	Toxics Action Center
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited	Upstream
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	350 Maine
Maine Lakes Society	
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association	