



## Maine 2018 Solar Bill

### **Support: LD 1686** *An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Distributed Energy Generation and To Eliminate Gross Metering*

**Sponsored by:** Sen. Tom Saviello

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This bill will stop a rollback that endangers jobs and the right of Mainers to generate their own power. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is poised to impose an unfair and radical new fee on power generated at Maine homes and businesses, including solar power.

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***The Legislature must act now to stop a new tax on solar power generated and used at Maine homes and businesses. LD 1686 will protect Mainers from millions of dollars in unnecessary increases in all electricity bills.***

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#### **Key points related to this bill include:**

- If the Legislature doesn't act, the PUC's anti-solar rule will take effect, and utilities like Central Maine Power (CMP) will start charging customers a tax on power they create and use on site – electricity that never touches the electrical grid.
- Solar reduces power bills for Mainers whether they have solar or not, but CMP won't tell you that because it is a monopoly utility beholden to overseas shareholders who pocket a guaranteed 12% rate of return when the company builds power lines and poles. CMP has a vested interest in keeping Maine homes and businesses buying its product.
- CMP will have to raise electricity rates for all Mainers by millions of dollars to install the new systems and equipment required for the new, unfair tax.
- The PUC has put utility earnings ahead of consumers, has failed to consider these costs, and is stepping on the rights of Mainers to generate their own power.

**This bill will prevent a tax on “self-generated” solar energy, reduce arbitrary barriers for community solar, and require the PUC to analyze facts.**

- LD 1686 makes very narrow changes, primarily by preventing the fee on power generated and used at Maine homes and businesses. The bill does not prevent the PUC from gradually scaling back net metering.
- Right now there is an arbitrary limit on the number of participants in a community solar array. The bill raises the cap from 9 to 50.
- The bill requires the PUC to analyze the costs and benefits of net metering for the electrical grid and Maine electricity customers, and to use facts to determine whether any changes should be made to the net-metering policy.



***CMP will oppose this bill because of their financial interests: The company supports this tax on solar that would allow them to profit and pass along the costs to all electricity customers in Maine. They also support the tax because it makes it harder for customers to compete with the utility by producing their own power.***

**To stop the new solar tax, support LD 1686. This bill will:**

- Prevent higher power bills for all Mainers, which would be needed to pay for the new systems and equipment to tax solar power.
- Direct the PUC to do fact-based analysis on the impact of net metering on Maine's electric grid and electric bills.
- Stop the new solar tax.
- Lift the current arbitrary limit of nine people joining together in a community solar project, allowing up to 50 people.

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