



Advancing the Clean Energy Future

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Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology  
By Pete LaFond, Acadia Center  
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Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee:

Acadia Center opposes the proposed Amendment to L.D. 442, which seeks to undo tangible progress in Maine on renewable energy by forbidding the Maine PUC and DEP from issuing “any” license or permit for the construction or operation of a renewable resource. The Amendment would also appoint a Commission to study aspects of renewable energy already studied for years by the Maine Climate Council and a host of stakeholders from across Maine.

Through this Legislature, the Executive, and more specifically the Maine Climate Council, the State of Maine has worked diligently for years to encourage renewable energy in Maine, with tangible results. There are a number of renewable energy projects already online which are saving Maine customers money and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This Amendment would bring that progress to a grinding halt by putting a hold on any permitting for the construction or operation of a renewable resource. The proposed Amendment to L.D. 442 would disrupt the green energy economy in Maine, causing uncertainty and delay for companies and their Maine customers. Moreover, the Commission could potentially conflict with a legal and regulatory framework established by the Legislature and overseen by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Additionally, the proposed makeup of the Commission includes no references to environmental and environmental justice representatives. The components of the proposed study also ignore entirely an assessment of the many benefits of Maine’s climate and clean energy policies.

For these reasons we urge the Committee to reject the proposed Amendment in its entirety. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

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