



Don't Weaken Maine's Renewable Energy Policy

Oppose LD 1699: We need to strengthen our renewable energy laws, not water them down

Renewable energy keeps Maine on the path to energy independence – it supports public health, a strong economy, and good-paying jobs for generations to come

Renewable energy is good for Maine consumers, job creation, and our environment

- Maine has abundant renewable energy resources but no fossil fuels, and our electricity mix is already dangerously over-dependent on power plants that use imported natural gas.
- A diverse mix of sources of power lowers electricity costs, and wind and solar have become the cheapest forms of new electricity generation.¹
- Tapping new, local renewable resources creates jobs, increases tax revenue, and strengthens the overall Maine economy.
- Increasing renewable energy is essential for achieving Maine's established goals for reducing carbon pollution.



LD 1699 weakens Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard by decreasing the need for new renewable energy

- Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) is a long-standing market-based tool to diversify our energy mix and encourage investment in renewable resources. It requires 10% of our power to come from new renewables.
- By adding older, existing renewable resources to Maine's RPS², this bill would reduce the need to build new renewable generation and would result in less renewable energy overall.
- The bill does not require existing hydro dam owners to make any new investments or environmental improvements to qualify for more generous support from ratepayers that is reserved for new renewables.
- Maine ratepayers should not be asked to pay more to the owners of older power plants. This bill puts dam owner profits ahead of consumers and sound energy policy.

The Legislature should reject LD 1699 and consider a comprehensive RPS reform next session

- Maine's RPS target of 10% was achieved in 2017 and policymakers should consider next steps.
- Our RPS policy is already suffering from a major loophole that allowed old, existing biomass power plants to qualify as "new" generation.
- There are many piecemeal RPS bills at the Energy & Utilities committee, but the Legislature should consider a comprehensive reform to the RPS in 2019, including establishing new goals, improving its effectiveness, and deciding which resources should be eligible.

Reject LD 1699: Support Renewable Energy

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¹ Lazard. "Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis 11.0". November 2017.

² Maine's RPS already also has a separate minimum requirement for existing renewables like hydropower dams.



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	

