



# The Legislature must act now to protect families and businesses from unnecessary electric bill increases and fees

*LD 1444, An Act to Prohibit Gross Metering, will stop a new tax that puts jobs and energy independence at risk*

***Maine families and businesses should have a right to generate their own power and increase their energy security***

## The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is about to impose an unfair and radical new fee on power generated at Maine homes and businesses – power that never touches the electrical grid

- If the Maine Legislature doesn't step in, the PUC's anti-solar rule will take effect, and utilities like Central Maine Power (CMP) will start charging customers a tax on electricity that is created and used on site and that never touches the electrical grid.
- CMP will have to raise electricity rates on all Mainers by millions of dollars to install the new systems and equipment required for this new tax.
- The PUC has put utility earnings ahead of consumers, failing to consider these new costs and stepping on the rights of Mainers to generate their own power.
- CMP makes a guaranteed 12% rate of return when they build power lines and poles. They are a monopoly utility, beholden to overseas shareholders, not Maine families and businesses.

## LD 1444 stops the new energy tax and reduces arbitrary barriers for community solar

- LD 1444 makes very narrow changes, primarily 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. This is a more conservative change than was proposed last year, in LD 1504.



## LD 1444 supports Maine families and businesses who want to generate their own power, as well as all consumers who don't want to pay unnecessary new costs on utility bills

- LD 1444 will prevent higher power bills for all Mainers, which would be increased to pay for the new systems and equipment to tax solar power and for more costly wires and poles over time.
- CMP opposes LD 1444 because they prefer the new PUC rule that would allow them to tax solar and profit from passing on new costs to ratepayers.
- CMP opposes LD 1444 because it levels the playing field for customers to generate their own power at a price that is competitive with the monopoly utility.

## **Support LD 1444: Act NOW to protect consumers from higher energy costs**

*For more information, please contact Dylan Voorhees, (207) 430-0112, [dvoorhees@nrcm.org](mailto:dvoorhees@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	

