

Resolve 15-08/09

Amended & Passed 4/27/09 8-0 (Skolnik absent)

JILL C. DUSON (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
DANIEL S. SKOLNIK (3)
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)
JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)
DORY RICHARDS WAXMAN (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ENACTMENT OF
LD 1450, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE
RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, operators of the electric power grid in Maine purchase fossil fuel-generated electricity because it is artificially inexpensive due to federal subsidies; and

WHEREAS, thirty percent of the Northeast region's energy goes for electric power generation and over fifty percent of that still comes from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, under Maine's current system, if a homeowner feeds solar generated electricity into the grid, they are given an energy credit, but are not paid for their power; and

WHEREAS, the State Utilities and Energy Committee is now considering LD 1450, an Act To Establish the Renewable Energy Resources Program, which will efficiently level the playing field without increasing government subsidies and without using tax revenue by requiring utilities to purchase renewably produced electricity from all qualified suppliers, empowering the MPUC to set the rates which electric utilities must pay for such power, requiring utilities to enter into a standard contract with all renewable energy suppliers for a set minimum term specified by the law, establishing management and oversight responsibilities, and reserving to the legislature the power to periodically review and revise the rates and the terms of the standard contract in the public interest; and

WHEREAS, LD 1450 guarantees that grid operators must compensate producers for green electricity, but decreases the rate grid operators must pay under newly executed contracts each year, ensuring that green power producers will have high security in their investments, that

capacity will be installed quickly and that the legislation will not prop up inefficient technologies as the market grows and becomes more efficient;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council strongly supports LR 1450, an Act To Establish the Renewable Energy Resources Program

O:/Orders/Resolutions/Supporting LD1450