



**Testimony of**

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**Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government on LD 556,  
An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from  
Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor**

**Monday, March 24, 2025**

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Dana Doran, and I am the Executive Director of the Professional Logging Contractors of the Northeast (PLC). The PLC is an educational non-profit organization that represents logging and associated trucking contractors throughout the Northeast.

As background, the PLC was created in 1995 in Maine to give logging and associated trucking contractors a voice in a rapidly changing forest products industry. As of 2021, logging and trucking contractors in Maine employed over 3,000 people directly and were indirectly responsible for the creation of an additional 2,500 jobs. This employment and the investments that contractors make contributed \$582 million to the state's economy. Our membership, which includes over 200 contractor members in the state of Maine and an additional 125 associate members, is responsible for more than 80% of Maine's annual timber harvest.

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify on behalf of our membership in support of LD 556, An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor. This bill will prohibit municipalities from prohibiting an individual or entity from using a heating or energy system for that individual's or entity's own heating or energy needs.

We appreciate the sponsor for bringing this bill forward, as we believe consumers should have free choice when determining what type of heating system will work for their application. Whether it is in a home or a business, the consumer should not be handcuffed into buying something that isn't practical for their use, and a municipality should not pick winners and losers.

We have seen this trend take place at the state level with respect to home heating and energy and it should not extend itself to municipalities. There is constant pressure to electrify everything from heating to passenger vehicles, and it is only a matter of time before policies attempt to ban or limit heating sources across the state.

Maine is a colder state than most and has a robust history of burning wood as a heat source. Not every home in Maine would benefit from a heat pump. There are many situations where the benefits of a modernized wood/pellet boiler would create more cost savings over the life of the product than heat pumps.

Wood and wood pellets are readily available locally and the dollars spent on them go directly into our state economy rather than out of state or overseas. At the same time, harvesting this renewable resource supports Maine jobs and rural communities while reducing fossil fuel dependency and contributing to the fight against climate change. It is unfortunate that in the most forested state in the country, after years of work to develop modern wood heating systems, wood does not receive the same promotion and acknowledgement as other heating sources.

Again, we want to thank the sponsor for introducing this legislation. We believe it is critical to leave heating choice up to the consumer as they know what will best fits their needs, not the government.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.