



## Testimony of the Efficiency Maine Trust -- Z100

### **LD 221: An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund, and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023**

#### **Presented to the Joint Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

**February 24, 2021**

---

Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and Members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, the Efficiency Maine Trust (Efficiency Maine) appreciates the opportunity to provide information about account Z-100 in the Supplemental Budget.

Over the past decade, Efficiency Maine has been nationally recognized for success in running energy conservation programs that are innovative, strategically designed, affordably administered, carefully accounted for, and highly cost-effective. In its Annual Report for FY2020, Efficiency Maine calculated that its programs spurred \$49 million of incremental private investment in energy upgrades throughout the state that will achieve annual energy savings of 132.0 million kWh and 147,488 MMBtu and lower energy bills by \$237 million over the lifetime of the upgrades. The programs delivered a Benefit-to-Cost Ratio, factoring in total quantified economic benefits and total incremental costs of 2.37-to-1 for electricity and 2.45-to-1 for unregulated fuels and natural gas. These programs are working to help Maine's homeowners, businesses, institutions and governmental bodies make smarter equipment purchases and accelerate their investment in building upgrades, which in turn is strengthening Maine's economy and environment.

The budgets for Efficiency Maine's programs are funded through revenues received directly from the electric utilities, the natural gas utilities, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), and the Forward Capacity Market at ISO-New England. In the most recently approved version of the State budget, approximately \$2.45 million of assessments from natural gas utility ratepayers appeared in Other Special Revenue Funds for the Efficiency Maine account (Z100). However, due to a change effectuated by the passage of PL 2019, Chapter 313 in 2019, the natural gas utility ratepayer assessments are no longer paid to the Maine Public Utilities Commission before being remitted to Efficiency Maine (now they are being remitted directly to Efficiency Maine). As such, that same \$2.45 million amount is being removed from the Other Special Revenue Funds in the State's biennial budget. The Personal Services (\$154,000) relates to a single FTE working at Efficiency Maine who is a State Employee, and the remaining All Other budget (\$15,747) relates to administrative costs of the State associated with that State employee.

If we can be of assistance answering further questions about our finances, please do not hesitate to ask. Respectfully,

/s/MDS

Michael D. Stoddard  
Executive Director

