



*Senator Henry Ingwersen*  
*3 State House Station*  
*Augusta, ME 04333-0003*  
*Office (207) 287-1515*  
*Henry.Ingwersen@legislature.maine.gov*

December 21, 2022

**Testimony in support of LD 3 “An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program”**

President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross, and distinguished members of the Legislature’s Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee, my name is Henry Ingwersen and I proudly represent the people of Senate District 32 which includes Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis and Lyman.

I am here today to testify in support of LD 3, an emergency measure that provides direct heating and housing relief to Mainers who need it most during our coldest months of the year. The fact is Mainers, our constituents, need help with rising heating costs. And they need that help right now. To say that time is of the essence is a drastic understatement. On top of that, many Mainers are confronted with the possibility of eviction with the emergency rental assistance program coming to an end earlier this year. There are hundreds of households in my district alone that benefitted from this program and are in dire situations at this very moment. Not individuals, households.

In my eyes, there are no choices or options to consider, we must act. Mainers have a long, proud history of looking after one another and being there for our neighbors, especially as we endure the winter months. To abandon our neighbors in this moment of great need would be to abandon that longstanding tradition, and to abandon our humanity.

Beyond the urgent need, this measure has strong bipartisan support and is rooted in compromise, as all good bills are. I urge the committee to vote ought to pass so that when we convene in January we can do the right thing and deliver for the people of Maine.

Thank you.

Henry Ingwersen  
State Senator