



December 21, 2022

LD 3, HP 5 An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program

Attention: **Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

Written Testimony of: **CASEY CRAMTON**
President & CEO of Dead River Company
Resident of Gorham

Position: **Supportive**

Senator Jackson, Representative Talbot Ross, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, I write to you as the leader of Dead River Company in support of LD 3, HP 5. Specifically, we are supportive of providing additional funding to help Maine residents heat their homes this winter as they struggle with higher energy costs. We are also supportive of expanding income level thresholds as proposed so that more Maine residents are eligible for heating assistance.

As a member of an industry committed to delivering energy and providing warmth to our customers, we have been hearing concerns from across Maine about the impact higher energy costs are having on Maine's families and businesses. A confluence of macro-economic events beyond our control over the past year have led to a global calamity as it relates to energy supply and costs, and these pressures are especially being felt in the Northeast. LD 3, HP5 will provide immediate relief for Mainers by providing a much-needed increased level of heating assistance this winter. With continued uncertainty in global energy markets, Maine can take steps now, here at home, to ensure every Mainer feels a bit more secure this winter.

On behalf of citizens across Maine, we urge favorable action on this legislation.

About Dead River Company in Maine:

With over one-hundred years of service to Mainers, Dead River Company is an industry leading heating and energy company deeply rooted in Maine's community and economy. With over 850 employees, many of whom are military veterans, and with 44 retail stores throughout Maine, Dead River Company delivers energy and peace of mind to Mainers from Fort Kent to Kittery and from Rangeley to Calais.