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LD 3

Emergency Maine Legislative Bill LD 3, "An Act to Provide Funding for Winter Emergency Energy Relief and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program." Sponsors Troy Jackson and Talbot Ross. We urge that Bill LD 3 not be passed as an emergency measure, but be resubmitted as two separate measures. The bill allocates some \$50 million to send a \$450 energy relief check to qualified Maine households, but the total price tag for the bill is \$445 million! Only 10% of the bill goes to alleviating actual heating fuel expenses. The remaining \$400 million goes to other non-emergency projects. To attempt to ram this bill through as an emergency is a disgrace, and thoughtful legislators who put on the brakes are to be commended. Our legislators should be creative enough to legitimately split off the \$50 million for emergency fuel relief. The remainder needs to be sent back to committee for review and systematic deliberation. Bill sponsors have hijacked an emergency measure to enact a massive spending bill that pushes many nonemergency pet projects, essentially holding needy Maine families hostage to an egregious abuse of their emergency legislative powers.

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