

David Boyer

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**Testimony of Rep. David Boyer**

**Neither For Nor Against**

***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***

**December 21, 2022**

Senator Jackson, Representative Talbot-Ross, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Appropriations & Financial Affairs, I appreciate the opportunity for a public hearing on LD 3.

I talked to multiple seniors going door-to-door that did not receive the \$850 checks that the state sent out over the summer. They could have benefitted from the assistance but did not realize they needed to file an income tax return. These same folks would not receive the proposed \$450 check since it uses 2021 tax returns to determine eligibility.

I hope the committee can craft an enrollment window to allow those folks, some that need it the most, a way to apply for the latest round of relief checks.

Additionally, I hope the committee can identify and address long-term solutions that would improve Maine's energy costs and our economy.

Thank you for your consideration.