

March 16, 2023

RE: LD 894 Support

Dear Chairman Nagle and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Marc Brown and I am the Executive Director, New England for Consumer Energy Alliance, or (CEA). CEA is a nationwide association made up of both energy consumers and producers working to advance all-of-the-above energy and environmental policies that will lower energy costs for every American. CEA supports actions that thoughtfully advance our nation towards a cleaner, more environmentally responsible energy future. We believe that responsible policies always consider the needs of consumers while leveraging and supporting the development of state-of-the-art technologies to improve our environmental stewardship, aiding in the continued reductions of all emissions.

On behalf of CEA I want to thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony today in support of part LD 894.

This is very simple and straight-forward legislation that protects the rights of individual consumers to choose the manner in which they heat their home, cook their food, dry their clothes—essentially how they power their lives.

While the objective of LD 894 is simple, its importance and timeliness can't be understated. Unfortunately, dozens of short-sighted local mandates and prohibitions have been passed across the country that would deny families and businesses the right to choose for themselves how they power their households, business operations, and even what type of appliances a contractor can install in a home it builds. This legislation prevents a municipality from infringing on the right of individuals and businesses to make these choices. It should be up to consumers to decide what types of appliances they want not anyone else.

Similar bipartisan legislation has passed in states like New Hampshire, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Georgia among others to address the aforementioned concerns. Further, we need to have one state uniform energy policy rather than an unworkable patchwork of local prohibitions and rules that would make service and distribution almost impossible to figure out, likely at much greater cost to consumers.

I want to reiterate and be clear – CEA wants to see a clean future with lower emissions. However, misguided attempts to ban natural gas and propane service by forcing mandates onto consumers will lead to astronomical costs and jeopardize energy resources that are helping our nation reduce emissions. A [report](#) requested by the City Supervisor of San Francisco found that its natural gas ban could cost consumers up to \$5.9 billion or potentially over \$34,000 per household. We do not want to repeat those mistakes here in Maine.

On behalf of CEA I urge you to support this commonsense measure that will help shield our neighbors from intrusive and unrealistic mandates as well as preserve Maine's economic competitiveness.

Respectfully,



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