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## **Maine Indoor Air Quality Council Testimony in Support of LD 1101: An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System**

*The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council (“MIAQC” or the “Council”) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating healthy, productive and environmentally sustainable indoor environments in Maine. Our efforts focus on the development of education, communications, and advocacy for safe and healthy indoor environments where Maine citizens live, work, play and learn.*

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council supports Maine’s efforts to reduce energy use in our buildings. However, we know that energy conservation efforts may compromise both the quality of an indoor environment as well as the building structure, increasing the risk of adverse occupant health effects. We support LD 1101, but are concerned that as currently drafted it inadequately addresses the need to assess ventilation, radon, and moisture as part of any energy auditing process or assignment of a home energy “score.” (Note: A copy of our full Policy Statement on Energy Efficiency and Indoor Air Quality is attached at the end of this testimony for your review.)

### **Recommended Amendment**

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council recommends the following be included in the required list of items to be contained in the proposed energy audit report (shown in Item 4, section B (2) of the bill):

- A list of current mechanical ventilation in the home, specifically: a. No mechanical ventilation b. exhaust-only ventilation (kitchen fan vented outdoors) c. exhaust only ventilation (bath fan vented outdoors); d. recovery ventilation (ERV or HRV). Recommendations for ensuring minimum acceptable ventilation per ASHRAE 62.2 should be included in the list of prioritized actions for improvement.
- Radon status: a.) Has the home been tested for radon in air and what the test result was, and b. whether a radon system is currently installed in the home. Recommendations for ensuring energy upgrades don’t negatively impact radon levels should be included in the list of prioritized actions for improvement.
- Evidence of moisture problems, such as basement or roof leaks or chronic high relative humidity. Recommendations for repairing leaks and reducing humidity should be included in the list of prioritized actions for improvement.

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council can be available for the work session to answer any questions or provide further comment.

Respectfully submitted by:



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**MIAQC Policy Statement on Energy Efficiency and Indoor Air Quality**

*Adopted by MIAQC Board of Directors in 2003, Revised in 2009 and 2017.*

- The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council supports efforts to increase energy efficiency in the operation and maintenance of buildings.
- Energy efficiency and indoor air quality are not mutually exclusive goals. You can have both.
- Energy conservation efforts can compromise both the quality of indoor environments as well as the mechanical systems and building structure, leading to the risk of adverse health effects and reduced productivity.
- Energy efficiency efforts must take the following into consideration:
  - Pre-project evaluation of the building for conditions that could negatively impact indoor air quality, specifically moisture, radon, and ventilation
  - Sufficient ventilation for fresh air and dilution of pollutants to maintain health and safety of occupants
  - Moisture control to prevent water intrusion or excessive humidity
  - Technical ability of energy contractors to address both indoor air quality and energy efficiency
  - Technical ability of building operators to maintain the systems
- A proper balance between energy efficiency and indoor air quality can be achieved if designers, contractors, building owners and facility managers make well-reasoned decisions based on existing best practice guidance, specifically ASHRAE 90.1 (Energy Standard for Buildings) and ASHRAE 62.1 (Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality) And ASHRAE 62.2 (Ventilation for Acceptable Indoor Air Quality in Low-Rise Residential Buildings)