



Rocky Mountain Institute | 2490 Junction Place, Suite 200, Boulder CO 80301 | 303.567.8716

March 30, 2023

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

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 1101, An Act to Reduce energy costs by enacting a Home Energy Scoring System

My name is Aurimas Bukauskas. I grew up on Peaks Island, Maine. I am writing in my current capacity as a Senior Associate at Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), a non-profit focused on decarbonizing the global energy sector, where I am part of our REALIZE residential energy retrofits program. RMI has deep expertise and a decades-long track record of leadership in building energy efficiency improvement measures, including work on home energy audits through the Residential Energy+ program.

With the nation's oldest population, some of its oldest building stock, and the country's highest proportion of buildings reliant on #2 heating oil, Maine has an exceptional need for home energy audits and retrofits. Greater access to efficiency retrofits and electrification measures in Maine can reduce energy burden, improve occupant comfort, and reduce Maine's contributions to climate change.

LD 1101, by introducing a voluntary Home Energy Score for Maine residential buildings, addresses a current market failure in Maine's real estate sector: the lack of standardized, transparent, and actionable data concerning the energy efficiency of existing homes. Making this data available to homeowners will unlock market mechanisms for the energy efficiency and electrification retrofits that Maine's homes critically need, supporting green jobs in the process. RMI recommends that LD 1101 prescribe a flexible audit procedure allowing for remote or in-person audits to collect this data.

Having grown up in an early 1900's Maine home heated using delivered heating oil and a wood stove, I can speak to the challenges of maintaining thermal comfort through the winter in a typical home in our state. My experience researching and managing deep energy retrofits at RMI has made the benefits of efficiency and electrification upgrades for such homes clear. LD 1101's home energy scoring system is a key step to achieve this change for Mainers.

We urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1101.

Respectfully submitted,

Aurimas Bukauskas, PhD

On Behalf of the Rocky Mountain Institute