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January 23, 2024

TESTIMONY OF LESLIE ANDERSON

President and CEO of the Propane Gas Association of New England

BEFORE THE MAINE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES, AND TECHNOLOGY

In Opposition of LD 2077 An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas

The Propane Gas Association of New England (PGANE) is pleased to have the opportunity to offer its comments regarding LD 2077.

The Propane Gas Association of New England is a regional alternative energy trade association representing members of the propane industry in the six New England States. We exist to serve the propane industry by promoting safety, education, and public awareness of the uses of propane. Our membership includes propane companies and suppliers, including numerous small companies who are often family owned and operated, many for several generations.

We strongly oppose propane's inclusion in LD 2077 and urge the committee to remove propane or vote Ought Not to Pass on this bill. Propane is endorsed by the American Lung Association as a clean fuel, and it is used around the world to reduce the effects of indoor air health effects.

Propane is not a greenhouse gas by itself and has no methane, unlike natural gas. Any unintentional leak of propane does not create greenhouse gases. There have been no credible studies of indoor air pollution that have demonstrated any detrimental health effects from propane. Included in this testimony we include two additional documents. One discussing propane and indoor air pollution and one showing statistics which indicate that propane does not contribute to indoor health effects.

Because propane is simply composed of carbon and hydrogen and no other compounds, it is not toxic and is extremely clean burning. This is why propane is used around the world to prevent indoor air pollution. There is a much greater risk of indoor air pollution in Maine from using firewood and other fuels than there is propane. A better study for indoor air health and environmental effects would be to study wood in Maine, not propane!

Our industry is concerned about the environment and is actively working to reduce carbon emissions. **The propane industry is reducing millions of tons of carbon emissions each year.** Across the globe, propane is being used to solve the world's greatest health threat, indoor air pollution caused primarily by burning wood for cooking and heating. Over 3.5 million people die annually from cooking with solid fuels. This leads to deforestation at an alarming rate in many developing countries and causes enormous carbon dioxide emissions. Moving one family from wood to propane saves over one ton of CO₂ per year. In addition, moving 50 families to propane from wood saves an acre of rainforest land.

Our association promotes propane because it is clean, although it is often misunderstood by local officials and frequently is prejudiced as a “fossil fuels” rather than a beneficial by-product. Using propane furthers the fundamental environmental goal to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle as promoted by EPA and DEP. Most people do not realize that propane is a biproduct of natural gas processing. About 5% of natural gas processing produces propane. If propane is not captured and beneficially used to offset another energy source, it is simply burned off. Propane is a partner with renewable energy as it is the perfect backup for solar installations and wind turbines. It is a recognized clean alternative fuel by EPA under the 1990 Clean Air Act, and it is an essential backup for our ever-increasing use of the electric grid. Renewable propane is also a viable innovation and under development from renewable sources. We believe propane is the perfect partner for solar and wind and we want Maine citizens to be able to pick propane as their energy source.

Propane is nontoxic, does not contaminate groundwater or surface water, is portable, and is already present across our state supporting local businesses and employees by providing green jobs. In Maine we have numerous small businesses and family-owned businesses that make up our industry. Most of our members are local Maine companies employing Maine citizens and contributing to their local communities. Utilizing propane contributes to Maine’s economy and promotes green alternative energy usage here in our State.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment before the committee and ask you to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 2077 or remove propane from Section 5 of this bill.