



**RETAIL
ASSOCIATION OF
MAINE**
Voice of Maine Retail

45 Melville Street, Suite 1
Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: 207.623.1149
www.retailmaine.org

March 24, 2025

Senator Joseph Baldacci, Chair
Representative Suzanne Salisbury, Chair
Members of the State and Local Committee

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 556, An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Labor and Housing Committee:

My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. We have more than 350 members statewide and represent retailers of all sizes. Maine's retailers employ more than 85,000 Mainers. We are here today to testify in support of LD 556.

This bill upholds the fundamental right of Maine residents and businesses to select the heating or energy systems that best meet their unique needs and budgets. In a rural, diverse, and weather-dependent state like Maine, flexibility and access to a variety of energy options—including oil, propane, natural gas, wood, and renewable sources—are essential.

Prohibiting municipalities from banning specific energy systems ensures continuity and reliability for homeowners, renters, and business owners alike. It also protects Mainers from potentially costly and disruptive mandates at the local level that could limit energy access or force premature transitions away from safe, commercially available systems many rely on.

LD 556 strikes a balanced approach. It preserves local government's ability to **encourage** preferred energy options and invest in clean energy initiatives, while preventing outright bans that could negatively affect consumers, workers, and service providers across Maine's energy economy.

In short, this legislation safeguards consumer choice, supports energy equity, and protects Maine's economy and way of life. I urge the Committee to support LD 556 and preserve energy choice for all Mainers.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Curtis Picard, CAE
President and CEO