



Testimony of the Maine Municipal Association

In Opposition To

LD 556 - An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor

March 24, 2025

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Rebecca Lambert, and I am providing testimony in opposition to LD 556 on behalf of the Maine Municipal Association's (MMA) elected 70-member Legislative Policy Committee (LPC). For reference, MMA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit member service organization and aims to help provide policy solutions that work for all residents in Maine and the LPC guides the advocacy efforts and establishes positions on bills of municipal interest.

Home rule is a fundamental principle that ensures municipalities can make decisions tailored to the specific needs and concerns of their residents. Quite simply, municipal officials agree this bill would strip away the authority of municipalities to adopt ordinances, which are approved by the voters in their community.

While local leaders understand the need for individuals to maintain their freedom of choice and for municipalities to not create unnecessary ordinances, it is also up to a majority of the voters of a particular community to decide what is best for them, including whether to prohibit heating sources in certain zones.

Thank you for your time and for considering the municipal perspective on this issue.

