

To: Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
From: William Weber, Portland Climate Action Team
Date: March 23, 2025
Re: Testimony in Support of L.D. 946: Resolve, to Increase Access to Energy Efficiency Programs by Low-Income and Moderate-income Residents

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology,

I write on behalf of the Portland Climate Action Team (PCAT), a volunteer group of approximately 100 greater Portland residents committed to addressing the current climate crisis. We advocate for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Portland and promote the equitable transition from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy. PCAT supports the implementation of Portland's One Climate Future climate action plan and the city's other climate goals. In pursuit of that **equitable** transition to a sustainable future, we urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on L.D. 946.

One of Efficiency Maine Trust's stated priorities is to, "maintain fairness and promote equity through its programs." However, this priority is not supported by goals currently established by the Trust. Those goals favor homeowners who often have the financial means to afford energy improvements.

L.D. 946 establishes a minimum of 50% of all electric vehicles and residential incentives offered by Efficiency Maine Trust to be dedicated to low- and moderate-income individuals. The current goals are inadequate and do not respond to the energy inequity experienced particularly by low-income residents. An extreme example of this inequity is a commitment in the EMT Triennial Plan VI to continue the Trust's Triennial Plan V pace to weatherize 3,300 homes/year, of which only 500 will be low-income homes and 600 moderate-income homes. A fifty percent commitment to low- and moderate-

income homes as called for in L.D.946 is the bare minimum and should be higher to fall in line with the Justice 40 initiative for federal funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Given the large number of low-income residents in the City's of Portland and South Portland we urge the committee to pass this important bill.

Thank you,

William J. Weber, retired PE

Portland Climate Action Team



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