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Hello,

As a life-long Mainer, a 40-year Maine small business owner (now co-owner of a 40-person employee-owned company), a board member of the Maine Pellet Fuels Association, and a landowner, I would like to make a few comments regarding Maine's energy future.

I believe we, in Maine, are missing a huge opportunity to cash in on the state-wide desire to wean off from fossil fuel heating. I believe that Maine could be the next Saudi Arabia of wood heat. Maine has an incredibly under-utilized forest resource that could benefit almost every aspect of our economy.

If we could just promote and incentivize clean green modern wood heating to the level we are currently promoting heat pumps, it would benefit landowners, loggers, truckers, boiler/furnace manufacturers and dealers, pellet mills, pellet/chip delivery companies, restaurants, gas stations, truck and equipment dealerships, mechanics, tire sales, construction companies, insurance agencies, banks, ...the list goes on and on as funds trickle down to those dependent on these businesses, while at the same time filling a void in the market for low-grade biomass, which is essential to the manufacture of higher grade wood products. As an added benefit, it will help to protect Maine woods from over-development and being paved over. Again, I believe this is a huge opportunity for Maine, and currently, we are missing the boat.