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April 5, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Gere, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology:

I regret that I am about to depart on out of state travel and unable to personally appear at your scheduled April 9 hearing on **LD 1212, Resolve to Study Opportunities for Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating.**

The intent of this resolve is to see that legislation passed by your Committee and subsequently signed into law is more fully utilized by Maine residents, schools, business firms, and non-profit organizations. Specifically, the provisions of the Thermal Renewable Energy Credit law and also the Thermal Energy Investment Program which provide, respectively, fuel cost rebates through the PUC and installation cost-sharing through Efficiency Maine. Despite the availability of funds and, with regard to the TEIP, the strong efforts of Rick Meinking of Efficiency Maine, these programs are currently underutilized.

The problem, quite frankly, is that potential users of these incentives are not aware of even the existence of modern wood heating. Fifteen years ago, Efficiency Maine was disbursing pellet heating installation rebates at an average of every day! Moderation in fossil fuel prices plus the utilization of heat pumps have drastically reduced interest in modern wood heating, but such heating remains an excellent alternative in many buildings.

LD 1212 seeks neither passage of new laws nor new funding. We simply seek the opportunity to work with Maine government entities to get our



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excellent heating systems back in the consideration of homeowners, school administrators, and business owners when they are considering replacing an existing heating system or constructing a new facility.

William Bell  
Executive Director