

April 8, 2025

TESTIMONY OF LESLIE ANDERSON

President and CEO of the Propane Gas Association of New England

BEFORE THE MAINE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

In Support of L.D. 1270 – An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources

The Propane Gas Association of New England (PGANE) is pleased to have the opportunity to offer its comments regarding LD 1270.

Good morning, my name is Leslie Anderson, I live in Raymond, Maine, and I am the President of the Propane Gas Association of New England. We are a regional alternative energy trade association representing members of the propane industry in the six New England States, and we have been battling numerous municipal bans on energy sources across our six states. We exist to serve the propane industry by promoting safety, education, and public awareness of the uses of propane. Our membership includes propane companies and suppliers, including numerous small companies who are often family owned and operated, many for several generations.

We support LD 1270 and urge the committee to vote unanimously Ought to Pass on this bill. This bill establishes the Maine Department of Energy Resources outside of the Governor's Office, where Governor's Energy Office (GEO) currently resides. Elevating this efficient group would allow for a more integrated, comprehensive, and consistent approach to the planning and management of Maine's energy system, helping Maine more effectively prioritize affordable and reliable energy for all Maine people and businesses.

Our association works with the current staff on many important issues, including energy security, energy diversity concerns, emergency management, and energy supply. Ensuring adequacy of supply and logistical transportation challenges are overcome during extreme weather situations is something we coordinate every winter with the GEO. Propane generators support cell phone towers, hospitals, and residential homes during power outages every year. The existing GEO staff are highly qualified professionals with substantial experience and technical expertise and this new department would help to retain those critical public servants.

Propane is a partner with renewable energy as it is the perfect backup for solar installations and wind turbines. It is a recognized clean alternative fuel by EPA under the 1990 Clean Air Act, and it is an essential backup for our ever-increasing use of the electric grid. Propane is the unsung energy hero of extreme weather events, and if climate change is going to increase the likelihood of these events as many predict, then we need to make sure that Maine has a healthy vibrant propane industry to step in and provide energy security during these emergencies. Renewable propane is also a viable innovation and under development from renewable sources. Renewable propane developed from both recycled plastic bottles

and from carbon capture are being tested at major universities and show lots of promise. Prohibiting propane would stifle renewable propane innovation. Renewable propane is chemically the same and there is no change over associated with the infrastructure or equipment. Your propane boiler and furnace today can be used tomorrow. We look forward to working with the state energy personnel as we ensure a diverse clean energy future for Maine.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment before the committee and ask you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1270.