



Benjamin J. Otten, COO
Maine Energy Systems
8 Airport Rd, Bethel, ME 04217

Re: Testimony of Benjamin J. Otten in Favor of LD1212

April 9, 2025

“Resolve, to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating”

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is B.J. Otten; I’m proud to call Bethel Maine my home where I have been keeping my family warm with modern wood heat for over a decade. I currently work at Maine Energy Systems as COO. I am writing you today to speak in favor of LD 1212, a Resolve to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating.”

Maine Energy Systems (MESys) is a small company formed in 2007 with the goal of utilizing Maine’s abundant forest resources to provide renewable thermal energy to heat homes and businesses. We build and distribute the world’s finest fully-automated wood pellet boilers and furnaces for residential, commercial and industrial use in Maine and throughout North America. Maine Energy Systems also participates in the delivery of bulk wood pellets used as heating fuel with a fleet of specifically designed pneumatic delivery trucks traveling up to 180 miles from our depot in Bethel, Maine. Since joining the MESys team in 2010 there has been one consistent headwind we are still rowing against today; public knowledge and policy makers understanding of Modern Wood Heating as an immediately available contributing solution to renewable energy goals requires understanding, support, participation and promotion.

Mainers have been independently heating with wood for centuries. I contest the ubiquitous nature of wood and forest products in our state’s history presents a fallacy regarding Modern Wood Heat as a known quantity, and I support LD 1212 as resolve to bridge this knowledge gap. This resolve fosters an opportunity for our industry to work with the state to bolster understanding and successful application of Modern Wood Heating.

I encourage you to join me in support of LD 1212 and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Regards,

Benjamin J. Otten

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