

Brittany Gill
CHIP, inc
LD 1525

Dear members of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee,

Thank you for your service. I am writing in support of LD 1525, An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine.

I work for CHIP a small non profit in Lincoln County. As one of our services, we provide households that are not able to meet their heating needs with a small boost for the winter: their choice of 100 gallons of K-1, #2 fuel oil, a ton of wood pellets, or electrical equivalent. Thanks to generous volunteers in our area, we are also able to offer 1 cord of wood.

The wood comes from neighbors who have had a tree fall during a storm or maybe donate wood from a clearing for a development. The requests this year were the highest they have been in the last 9 years that I have been working with CHIP. 375 unique households requested help with fuel. 45 of those households chose firewood.

Our lead organizer is gathering donations this spring and summer to cut this fall and winter for the 26-27 season. We already have 50 cords drying for 25-26 winter. The volunteers work hard to make a real difference in people's lives. Often the delivery comes and someone rushes in a few pieces of wood to start the fire.

With the support of this bill, hopefully, more people will learn about the wood banks, enabling more donations of wood and sharing knowledge. I am grateful for any protection of the good work of the volunteers.

I hope Li-Heap programs, including CAP agencies and Maine Housing, would also be purposefully made aware of these programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmly,
Brittany Gill
Program Manager, CHIP inc
www.chipinc.org