

Legislative Testimony

By: David Von Seggern

Bill: LD 1619, Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study Pathways for Creating a Thermal Energy Networks Program in Maine

Date: April 24, 2025

Recommendation: Vote Ought To Pass

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

I am David Von Seggern, registered voter in the City of Westbrook, Maine. I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” on LD1619 (*Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study Pathways for Creating a Thermal Energy Networks Program in Maine*).

I am a retired seismologist who recently relocated from Nevada to Maine. Nevada has a sizable geothermal energy resource, second to California among states, and has made wise use of this resource to generate baseload electrical power. Although Maine does not have the geology that will enable geothermal power generation, the potential for geothermal space heating is real but untapped. One approach to realizing this potential is through Thermal Energy Networks (TENS).

Geothermal energy entails the least visible footprint per energy unit of all renewable energy sources. The infrastructure is largely underground, out-of-view, and resilient to storms and other events that plague our electrical transmission system. Paired with state-of-the-art heat pumps that extract heat from groundwater, TENS will likely become the system of choice for high-density residential complexes and for industrial buildings where the surface geology allows it.

LD1619 provides a good step forward for the use of geothermal energy in Maine. I believe that the study commissioned by this bill will prove immediately useful in developing geothermal energy for our state. Again, I urge you to vote “Ought to Pass”.