Paul Perkins John Zittel Bath LD 1967

We are Paul Perkins and John Zittel, both longtime residents of Bath and co-chairs of the City of Bath Climate Action Commission. We are testifying today in support of LD 1967, "Resolve, to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Pilot Program".

Bath's Climate Action Commission helped to get an updated Climate Action Plan passed by our City Council last November. Bath's plan, along with a previous City Council Resolution, aligns closely with the goals of the state climate plan, Maine Won't Wait, and seeks to lower our carbon emissions 80% by 2050, a target broadly accepted climate scientists as necessary to avoid the worst climate outcomes.

There is strong demand in Bath for support of the kind envisioned in LD 1967. When we hold public events, the single most frequent question we hear is a variation on: "How can I get help in understanding the choices and options to enable me to make sustainability improvements in my residence?" According to Bath's recent greenhouse gas inventory, our residential sector accounts for 27% of carbon emissions by the City. Reducing those emissions is a daunting task, since old building stock can have a myriad of issues often needing careful and expert assessment. As an illustrative example, consider that building science makes it clear that "improvements" such as air sealing and insulation without understanding of and attention to moisture movement can lead to destructive repercussions.

LD 1967 aims to provide expert guidance to homeowners on how best to address building durability, to upgrade energy performance, and to access available financial incentives. It would offer independent, 3rd party analysis of contractor recommendations, and it would prioritize low-income and underserved communities. This bill could play a pivotal role in lowering home energy costs, providing warmth and comfort to Mainers, and in reducing carbon emissions from the residential sector.

Thank you for your time. Please vote in favor of LD 1967

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