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February 20th, 2026

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 2140– An Act to Reduce Household Energy Costs in
Response to Federal Cuts

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

My name is Victoria Forkus, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Maine
Community Action Partnership (MeCAP), representing Maine's nine Community Action
Agencies. In my role, I also serve as a member of the Electric Ratepayer Advisory Council
(ERAC). We offer this testimony in support of LD 2140 which establishes a state
energy-efficient home improvement tax credit to help Maine households reduce energy
costs in response to federal funding cuts.

This bill creates a new credit under 36 MRSA §5219-CCC for qualified home energy audits
and building improvements, such as insulation, air sealing, window and door upgrades, and
other measures proven to cut heating and electricity usage. These improvements are among
the most cost-effective ways for households to lower their bills, yet they remain out of reach
for many low and moderate-income residents due to upfront costs.

MeCAP agencies see every day how high energy burdens strain household budgets, forcing
families to choose between heat, food, and other essentials. A tax credit targeted toward
energy-saving upgrades will help more Maine families reduce long-term energy costs,
improve home comfort, and lessen reliance on crisis assistance programs.

As federal funding declines for weatherization and energy assistance, Maine needs tools like
this credit to maintain progress on energy affordability. LD 2140 provides practical, targeted
relief while encouraging responsible energy-saving investments. Thank you for your
consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Victoria D. Forkus

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