



Testimony of: Al Bugbee

March 16th, 2023

Dead River Company – Vice President of Operations
Resident of Falmouth, ME

Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government: LD 894 - An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor

Position: **Support**

I respectfully request the Committee support LD 894.

I support LD 894 for the following reasons:

1. With municipalities in other states enacting or attempting to restrict energy choices for homes and businesses, we must preserve the right for Maine citizens to choose their energy source.
2. Energy costs are at an all-time high for Maine residents. Today, homeowners and businesses have sought to diversify their heating options to include choices like propane, solar panels, wood pellets, heat pumps, and natural gas. The use of multiple heat sources allows citizens to make smart choices based on cost, weather, and other factors. Maintaining this right to choose is essential to allowing Maine citizens their best chance to afford current and future energy costs.
3. Preserving the right to choose will maintain a competitive environment in the energy market. This free-market system will help keep energy costs down for Maine citizens.

About Dead River Company

Dead River Company was founded in Maine 114 years ago, operates 60 retail stores along with 10 wholesale fuel supply hubs, and employees over 1,300 people. Two-thirds of our infrastructure and employees are based here in Maine. We serve customers in all 16 Maine counties with critical heating fuels and provide maintenance and repairs to customer heating systems and appliances.