



Testimony in Support
LD 585, “An Act to Use Certain Regional Transmission Organization Payments for
Beneficial Electrification to Reduce Electricity Rates”
March 6, 2025

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

My name is Heather Sanborn, here today as Public Advocate, to testify in support of LD 585, “An Act to Use Certain Regional Transmission Organization Payments for Beneficial Electrification to Reduce Electricity Rates.”

This bill eliminates the sunset date for EMT’s authority to use revenue sources such as forward capacity market funds to support heat pump incentives. In addition, the bill expands EMT’s allowed use of those funds to include electric vehicle (EV) programs. Finally, EMT would be permitted to use these funds to promote and supplement incentives that support beneficial electrification measures and to reliably reduce electricity rates. EMT’s Triennial Plan IV (FY2026-28)¹ forecasts key milestones to be met, including:

- 38,000 homes heated by heat pumps, including 6,500 low-income homes,
- 9,900 homes weatherized, including 1,500 low-income and 1,800 moderate-income homes,
- 1,700 new battery systems in homes and small businesses,
- 137 megawatts of peak summer load reduction, and
- \$492 million in electric rate suppression due to beneficial electrification initiatives.

The beneficial electrification initiatives EMT has pursued over the last decade have resulted in substantial and well documented avoided costs for Mainers. EMT’s new and continuing initiatives are forecasted to have a 1 to 3.7 cost to benefit ratio. EMT has a track

¹ <https://www.energymaine.com/triennial-plan-vi/>

record of demonstrably driving down rates for all ratepayers and these efforts should continue.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration of this testimony. The Office of the Public Advocate looks forward to working with the Committee on LD 585 and will be available if requested for the work session to assist the Committee in its consideration of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Sanborn
Public Advocate