



Date: March 24, 2025

To: Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and Members of the State and Local Government Committee

From: Payson Wiers, Regional Director, Dead River Company

Subject: Testimony in Support of LD 556: An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Payson Wiers, and I am the Regional Director at Dead River Company. I am here today to express my strong support for LD 556, "An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor."

Dead River Company, along with our constituents and customers, respectfully requests the committee's favorable vote on this crucial legislation.

In the face of rising energy costs and a diverse range of energy sources, it is imperative that we safeguard the ability of Maine residents to freely choose their preferred energy source and provider. Many households and businesses in our state currently utilize multiple energy sources, tailoring their choices to factors such as price, efficiency, weather conditions, and individual needs. LD 556 will ensure that residents retain the flexibility to address their unique energy challenges.

To illustrate the importance of this choice, I would like to share the testimony of a Maine resident who utilizes multiple energy systems and providers:

To the Honorable Members of the Committee,

"My name is Lyman Stuart, and I reside in Standish, Maine. I am writing to express my strong support for LD556, "An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor."

Living in Maine, we are acutely aware of the challenges posed by our climate. We experience harsh winters, frequent power outages, and a wide range of weather conditions that demand diverse and reliable heating options. Our home in Standish is a testament to this need for flexibility.

Our primary heating source is a heat pump, which we find efficient and effective for most of the year. However, recognizing the potential for failure, we have also installed electric baseboard heat as a backup. More importantly, we understand the critical need for redundancy in the face of Maine's frequent power outages. Therefore, we have a propane heater in our basement and a wood stove in



our living room. These options are not luxuries; they are necessities for ensuring our family's safety and comfort during the winter months.

I cannot imagine being restricted by municipal mandates that would limit our ability to choose the heating systems that best suit our needs and circumstances. The ability to utilize multiple energy sources is not just a matter of convenience; it is a matter of resilience. Prohibiting municipalities from restricting these choices, as LD556 proposes, is essential for maintaining Maine residents' energy independence and security.

This bill recognizes Mainers' diverse needs and ensures that individuals and entities can select the heating and energy systems that best suit them. It acknowledges that a one-size-fits-all approach is not practical or equitable in a state with such varied geographic and climatic conditions.

The freedom to choose our energy distributors and systems is fundamental to our ability to adapt to changing circumstances and ensure our comfort and safety. I urge you to support LD556 and protect Maine residents' heating and energy choices”.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lyman Stuart
A resident of Standish, Maine

These are valid and important points. We believe that LD 556 is vital to preserving energy choice, protecting consumers, and ensuring a balanced approach to energy policy in Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dead River Company was founded in Maine 116 years ago, operates 66 retail stores along with 10 wholesale fuel supply hubs, and employs over 1,500 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.