



**Testimony of the Efficiency Maine Trust
Michael D. Stoddard, Executive Director**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

**LD 1212 –
Resolve, to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to
Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating**

Presented to the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology

April 9, 2025

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, I appreciate the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the Efficiency Maine Trust (the Trust) **neither for nor against LD 1212.**

This bill directs the Trust to “study and make recommendations” about “programs and incentives encouraging the promotion and use of modern wood heating systems in the State.” It directs the Trust to conduct this study in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Community Development and representatives of the modern wood heat industry.

We do not object to the promotion of modern wood heat or to conducting a study about how it could be promoted through programs either at the Trust or elsewhere.

The Trust continues to operate programs to promote cost-effective uses of biomass. Currently, the Trust is offering a \$6,000 rebate for residential installation of a central boiler system fueled by wood pellets, and a rebate of 35% of project costs for any business, municipality, school, or nonprofit installing a qualifying biomass/biofuel boiler or furnace. Demand for residential biomass boilers has dropped from about 100 units last year to a pace of 55 units this year. Only a handful of commercial biomass projects have sought rebates through the Trust’s programs.

We note that the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has an informative web page dedicated to “modern wood heat,” and would suggest that if there is to be a study, they should be included.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/MDS

Michael D. Stoddard
Executive Director