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Testimony of Lee Landry, True North Energy Services LLC

in Favor of LD 1212

“Resolve, to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating”

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Lee Landry and I’m from Hampden. I am the owner of True North Energy Services, and I am also a Marine Corps Combat Veteran. I am here today to speak to you in favor of LD 1212, a Resolve to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating.”

True North Energy Services is the leading installer of residential wood pellet boilers in Maine. I have been involved in the installation of wood pellet boilers since they first became available in the US in 2009. During that time, we have installed hundreds of wood pellet boilers. I believe today’s automated wood pellet boilers are even more reliable than their fossil fuel counterparts. I say this a lot, but I believe I am saving the world one basement at a time.

It strikes me after all this time and all the people we have done installations for in Maine since 2009, that most people I encounter don’t even know these automated wood pellet boilers exist. This was my most recent experience while exhibiting at the Home Expo in Bangor. They all knew what a heat pump was. If we are talking about cutting carbon emissions, raising awareness and promoting wood pellet boilers is a great way to get there. It’s my belief that modern automated wood pellet boilers offset more carbon emissions than heat pumps, given that natural gas averages 50% of the energy mix in ISO New England.

I feel that wood pellet boilers are the best idea that nobody has heard of. Increasing awareness to the extent that heat pumps have been promoted would be a great start. I encourage the Committee Members to support LD 1212 and thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I welcome any questions you may have.

Central and Southern Maine’s leading installer of Wood and Wood Pellet boilers.