

Testimony of Jared Mulliner o/b/o Maine Energy Systems  
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 Jared Mulliner, and I work with Maine Energy Systems. I am writing today to strongly support LD 1212, which seeks to promote the use of modern wood heating systems through study, collaboration, and incentives.

This past weekend, I had the opportunity to attend the Bangor Home Show—an event where people come specifically looking for ways to improve and upgrade their homes. I was there for three full days, and what struck me more than anything was how few people knew that modern wood pellet boilers even existed.

Even though Maine Energy Systems has been installing these systems since 2010, the majority of the thousands of attendees I spoke with had no idea that pellets could be delivered via truck through a 4-inch hose just like heating oil—or that these systems are automatically fed and can heat both the entire home and domestic hot water. Day after day, I had conversations with surprised and intrigued homeowners who had never heard of this technology despite its many benefits and its long presence in the state.

Meanwhile, I have a dealer in Vermont who needs me to ship him 15 boilers to meet demand for his current projects. It’s challenging because our truck can only carry four boilers at a time, and I’m now coordinating multiple shipments to meet their needs. It’s incredible to me that Vermont—a state with fewer natural resources than Maine—has such strong demand, while here at home, we’re still trying to build awareness.

Maine has more trees, a more vibrant wood basket, and a rebate structure that is just as generous as Vermont’s. We also have the Efficiency Maine Trust, a competent and respected organization that is already administering these programs. We’re missing broader public understanding and a coordinated, strategic push to promote modern wood heating on the scale we know is possible.

LD 1212 gives us that opportunity. By bringing together industry, economic development, and the Efficiency Maine Trust to study and recommend ways to expand awareness and access, we can help Maine families adopt cleaner, more sustainable, and cost-effective heating systems—while keeping more of our energy dollars in the state.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to vote favor LD 1212.

Sincerely, Jared Mulliner