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Testimony of Hannah Campbell 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 Hannah Campbell and I am here to speak in support of LD 1212 on behalf of Maine Energy Systems, a central wood pellet heating system manufacturer and bulk wood pellet delivery company based in Bethel, ME.

I am here today to speak to you in favor this “Resolve to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating” because I do Marketing for Maine Energy Systems (MESys), and I see firsthand how promotion of incentives can be highly impactful. People respond to and trust promotion by Efficiency Maine and we look forward to collaborating with them on this Resolve to create a strategic plan to promote the industry, create jobs, and strengthen Maine’s state economy.

For those who may not know, systems like those MESys makes are automated, bulk fed (no handling bags of pellets), and are extremely efficient. As a homeowner with one in my basement, I can attest to saving on heating costs versus oil in my home, its limited maintenance, and that it feels good to know I’m reducing my carbon footprint. With promotion of Efficiency Maine incentives, many more Mainers could do what we’re seeing homeowners and businesses in New Hampshire and Vermont do at a quicker pace – switch to wood pellet heating.

This Resolve is critical because central wood pellet heat is intrinsically tied to the forestry industry – which is vital to Maine’s economy. Wood heat is America’s First Fuel and Maine is uniquely positioned with abundant forest resources. Local, sustainable, wood pellet heating helps keep heating dollars in state and it is a chance for Maine residents to cut back on both heating costs and their carbon footprint. While there is a responsible forestry industry in Maine there will continue to be ample wood waste and sawdust to make wood pellets.

We look forward to working with Efficiency Maine to collaborate on a plan to promote existing incentives with funding that is already in place and to develop a strategic plan that can be used to best serve the industry. With promotion by Efficiency Maine, we believe Maine has the opportunity to decarbonize heating and help Mainers save during harsh winters, further alleviating the fuel assistance need.

Thank you for hearing and considering my testimony here today in favor of LD 1212. I am happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.