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May 9, 2025

Senator Curry, Chair Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing, I'm Gary Drinkwater, representing House District 27 which includes the towns of Alton, Argyle Twp., Bradford, Corinth, Hudson and, my hometown, Milford.

I'm here today to present **LD 1585, "Resolve, To Direct The Maine State Housing Authority To Amend Its Rules Governing The Fuel Assistance Program Regarding Benefit Payment For Wood Fuel."**

Back when Maine State Housing fell under the jurisdiction of the Labor Committee, we considered a bill related to fuel assistance. During the discussion, someone asked a key question: What types of fuel does the program actually cover?

Surprisingly, it was revealed that coal firewood is still in use. Upon inquiring about payment methods for firewood, we found that transactions are typically conducted in cash.

In this day and age, it's surprising that cash is still used, especially when so many convenient digital payment options are available.

I propose that Maine State Housing adopt an alternative payment system such as Venmo, credit card, to make transactions more secure, convenient and trackable.

Thank you for your time and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Gary Drinkwater
State Representative