

Testimony in Support of LD 2037

An Act to Update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowances

January 21, 2026

Submitted to: Committee on Environment & Natural Resources

Submitted by: Elise S Brown, Executive Vice President
Evergreen Home Performance, LLC – Rockland & Portland

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, Members of the Committee,

My name is Elise Brown. I live in the town of Liberty, in Waldo County, and co-own and operate Evergreen Home Performance, a contracting company based in Rockland and Portland. We are a Maine company serving Maine people from Biddeford to Bar Harbor, providing comprehensive air sealing, insulation, and basement moisture remediation services.

Evergreen Home Performance has been the top-performing insulation contractor within the Efficiency Maine weatherization program for several years in a row. Last year, we treated approximately 450 homes, qualifying 92% of them for Efficiency Maine insulation rebates.

As a result of our services, 450 Maine homes now operate at an improved level of efficiency. Of that total, 32% were moderate or low income customers. This means that 130 of those neighbors who couldn't ordinarily ever hope to afford this level of comprehensive home efficiency treatment were able to undertake projects that have made a significant difference to their home.

Unlike other efficiency measures, like changing out an inefficient appliance, weatherization work requires getting into the "guts" of a building, typically in basements & attics. To truly make a difference, installers need to do comprehensive jobs to expose and seal air leakage points and add insulation such that the living spaces are truly separated from the outdoor environment. This is labor-intensive work, which means the cost can be significant, from \$6,000-\$20,000 or more.

For many homeowners, that cost becomes a barrier from undertaking the critically important task to make that home more efficient to heat and cool. The beauty of home

weatherization work is that not only does it work regardless of the energy source, the improvements are **permanent**, stretching the value of every energy dollar that Maine homeowner spends on indefinitely into the future.

Important to note is that weatherization also improves the quality of life for Maine people. The stories we hear from customers have -- at times -- brought us to tears. Examples include seniors who found their homes too drafty and cold to live in, folks who want to stay in the family farmhouse but cannot afford the utility bills, and young families needing to ready unused rooms for new babies.

As a business, we have found the Efficiency Maine Weatherization Program to be a win-win proposition for Maine. It's a win for Maine people because it is a critical tool in assisting Maine people -- young families, seniors, working people -- to make their homes more affordable to live in.

It's a win for Maine business because the program provides stability to a tough industry, assisting us to grow our company. We provide 36 full-time jobs to Maine residents from Waldo County to Cumberland County. We offer wages people can live on, with benefits like health care, and short & long term disability insurance.

The state's continued participation in the RGGI program provides the funding source that makes this type of win-win programming possible. We sincerely hope it continues and ask you to support LD 2037.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elise S Brown
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