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PUBLIC ADVOCATE

**Testimony in Support
LD 2220, “An Act to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and
Coaching Resource Hub”
March 4, 2026**

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

My name is Heather Sanborn, here today as Public Advocate, to testify in support of LD 2220, “An Act to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Resource Hub.”

The OPA dedicates substantial staff time to assisting individual ratepayers in understanding and resolving issues related to their utility bills. These interactions underscore a consistent challenge: while consumer education tools exist, it is difficult to ensure that clear, actionable information reaches the households that most need assistance—particularly those facing high energy burdens.

We support the establishment of the Maine Home Energy Navigator Program because it is structured as a distributed, community-based initiative. That model is well-suited to overcoming barriers to access by leveraging trusted local organizations and providing personalized guidance. By helping households identify available programs, understand their options, and take practical steps to manage energy use and costs, this initiative has the potential to improve affordability outcomes and enhance the effectiveness of existing state investments.

I welcome your questions and would be pleased to provide additional information for the work session.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Sanborn
Public Advocate