



**Testimony of the Efficiency Maine Trust
Michael D. Stoddard, Executive Director**

NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST LD 866 – An Act Concerning Advanced Refrigeration Technology

Presented to the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

March 7, 2022

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and Members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, the Efficiency Maine Trust (the Trust) testifies neither for nor against LD 866.

The Trust is here today to speak to Section 2 of the bill amendment. Section 2 proposes to amend the part of the Efficiency Maine Trust Act that governs how the Trust may use funds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI – pronounced like “Reggie”). Today, RGGI funds are used to provide rebates for weatherizing homes, to upgrade new Affordable Housing developments to the highest efficiency standards, to help small businesses and public schools install high-performance heat pump systems, and to help the state’s industrial sector upgrade the efficiency of its mills and factories. In all cases, these upgrades must pass the cost-effectiveness requirement and other applicable criteria provided in the statute.

Please note that the Trust does not use RGGI funds to give carbon credits to customers for installing solar or wind projects. Please also note that unless and until refrigerants are leaked into the atmosphere, they do not constitute an emission of greenhouse gases (GHG). The Trust estimates that the annual leakage of refrigerants in Maine constitutes between 0.3% to 0.9% of the state’s total GHG emissions.

Last year, the Trust’s programs that were funded by RGGI were forecasted to achieve \$5.5 in lifetime savings for every \$1 of RGGI funds invested by the Trust. Making efficiency upgrades to refrigeration systems is an eligible measure in the Trust’s programs serving commercial and industrial consumers and could be done today under the existing law and programs. In many if not most cases, it is necessary to change out the equipment in order to accommodate use of a new refrigerant. Thus, it should not be assumed that this is a simple matter of changing out the refrigerant and leaving the existing equipment in place.

We look forward to the work session and I would be happy to answer any questions

Respectfully,

/s/MDS

Michael D. Stoddard
Executive Director