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Via Electronic Delivery

<https://www.mainelegislature.org/testimony/>

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Mark Lawrence
The Honorable Seth Berry
Co-Chairs
The Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
c/o Legislative Information
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: **LD 597: "An Act To Establish the Wood Energy Investment Program"**

Dear Senator Lawrence, Rep. Berry and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in favor of LD 597.

ReEnergy Biomass Operations owns and operates two biomass power facilities in Maine. At these facilities in Livermore Falls and Stratton, we use sustainably harvested forest and mill residue as fuel to generate homegrown, renewable electricity. These facilities directly employ about 50 people and support hundreds more jobs in the logging and trucking industries while providing the forestry industry an important revenue stream for their wood residues. The facilities generate approximately 640,000 megawatt-hours of baseload renewable electricity each year, which is enough to supply power to 83,000 homes.

This legislation would support the forest products sector in Maine by increasing the efficient use of wood for energy production. Through the Wood Energy Investment Program, the Efficiency Maine Trust and the Finance Authority of Maine would provide incentives and low-interest or no-interest loans to entities for the installation of new wood-derived thermal energy or cogeneration projects. We support efforts like this that help ensure the future of homegrown renewable power and the larger forest products industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Thibodeau".

Mark Thibodeau
Regional Manager