

# Integrated Energy Systems, PLLC

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March 16, 2021

Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology  
Cross Building Room 208  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

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

Dear Committee Members:

My name is Richard Grondin. I am a licensed professional engineer and president of Integrated Energy Systems, a mechanical engineering firm. I have been designing heating and cooling systems for commercial buildings and schools for 30 years and I am in favor of LD 597. I have had great success with wood chip and pellet boiler systems in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and I am in favor of promoting this type of energy source. I have two comments in regards to the bill.

First, the revenue generated by thermal renewable energy credits should be used to promote heating systems with wood-derived thermal energy as proposed in LD 597. It should not be used for electrical efficiency projects or electric based heating systems, since those are currently funded from electric rate payers.

Second, the initial first cost of pellet or wood chip heating systems has been a hurdle even though they usually have the lowest life cycle cost. A low-interest loan or grant would help schools and businesses move forward with this type of project. A new wood energy project reduces the dependency on fossil fuels, benefits the Maine forest industry, and it benefits the Maine economy for the life of the system.

Sincerely,



Richard Grondin, PE, CEM, CBCP

Richard Grondin  
Falmouth

Please see attached letter.