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TESTIMONY NEITHER FOR NOR AGAINST

L.D. 815

AN ACT TO SUPPORT SCHOOL DECARBONIZATION

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, I am Steven Bailey, executive director of Maine School Management Association, testifying on behalf of the legislative committees of the Maine School Boards Association and Maine School Superintendents Association neither for nor against L.D. 815.

Our members support the goal of this bill, which is to have public schools become carbon neutral and that essentially means getting rid of all fossil fuels used for heating.

Our concern is around what the timetable is for this to occur and how much it will cost.

We also would like an assessment from the Department of Education and its school construction experts on cost and whether there are other alternatives aside from solar that should be considered as a replacement for fossil fuel. Heat pumps would be one example.

As the committee has heard before, Maine has a lot of old school buildings and that makes the job of heating efficiently more difficult.