



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1440  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

## **Nathan J. Wadsworth**

P.O. Box 321  
Cornish, ME 04020  
Residence: (207) 838-7451  
Nathan.Wadsworth@legislature.maine.gov

### **LD 1202: An Act to Establish a Wood-fired Combined Heat and Power Program April 15, 2021**

The Wood-fired Combined Heat and Power Act is modeled after the Community Renewable Energy Pilot program that stimulated investments in several sawmill CHP projects (Robbins Lumber, Searsmont, and Maine Woods Pellet Company in Athens.) Both of these energy efficient facilities provide outlets for sawmill residuals and tree tops and limbs from harvesting operations, provide renewable energy, and provide ongoing economic contributions in the communities where they are located.

Maine's sawmill community sees the success of these projects in the production of renewable energy that is efficiently produced through modern Combined Heat and Power facilities.

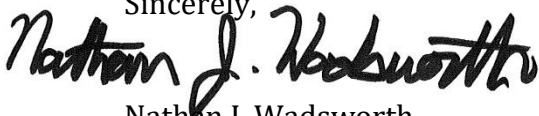
The Legislature has directed the PUC to procure hundreds of megawatts of renewable energy through NEB programs and long term contracts, and the state will need to procure thousands of megawatts to supply the increased demand for electric vehicles and heating. This 50 mw of homegrown renewable energy is a small but needed contribution to this effort, and has wider benefits for the Maine economy at lower cost than the NEB program.

This program supports energy efficient CHP projects ranging from 3-10 MW located in communities throughout Maine. The CHP platform will allow for the co-location of large heat users that will attract other wood manufacturing operations (e.g. biofuel manufacturers, engineered wood facilities and other heat-intensive industries.)

The Governor's Climate action plan established a recommendation "*to support the growth of highly-efficient CHP facilities, including through the long-term contracting authority of the Maine Public Utilities Commission.*"

Representatives from the industry will be here to talk about the value of the project in terms of renewable power to consumers and the benefits to rural communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan J. Wadsworth". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N".

Nathan J. Wadsworth  
State Representative