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

IN OPPOSITION TO
LD 1098 - An Act To Support Rural Maine Residents through the Winter by Providing Rebates for Backup Power Generators

Presented to the Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT)

April 20, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, the Efficiency Maine Trust testifies today in opposition to LD 1098 - *An Act To Support Rural Maine Residents through the Winter by Providing Rebates for Backup Power Generators*.

The bill does not indicate a funding source. One possible interpretation is that the Trust is expected to draw the necessary funding for this bill from electricity conservation funds or RGGI funds. The Trust objects to policies that would redirect these revenue streams for uses that: (1) seem unlikely to advance the Trust's statutory purposes, and (2) are doubtful as to cost-effectiveness or to serving a broader societal benefit.

The Trust's statutory purposes are focused on lowering energy costs and/or reducing greenhouse gases by promoting measures that are cost-effective. It seems unlikely that this bill, as drafted, would lower energy costs or reduce greenhouse gases. And it is very doubtful that the residential backup generator measure, as contemplated in the bill, would be cost-effective unless it were significantly refined. In rare situations, there may be sufficient societal benefits to justify making an exception to the cost-effectiveness standard. But in the situation presented here, such societal benefits are not obvious.

The Trust does see potential for certain types of distributed energy storage to serve as a measure in the Trust's programs that, if narrowly tailored and carefully implemented, could be cost-effective, lower energy costs, reduce greenhouse gases and serve a broader societal benefit. But LD 1098 does not appear to be pointed in that direction.

Respectfully,

/s/MDS
Michael D. Stoddard
Executive Director