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Via Electronic Delivery

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

May 12, 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 1659: "An Act To Create the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator"**

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

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 1659.

ReEnergy Biomass Operations owns and operates two biomass power facilities in Maine that generate baseload renewable electricity. 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 have the capacity to generate approximately 640,000 megawatt-hours of baseload renewable electricity each year, which is enough to supply power to 83,000 homes.

ReEnergy does not take a position on the merits of the proposal but if the committee advances this legislation, ReEnergy recommends it align the bill's definition of "biomass" in Section 2, page 2, line 21 with the current statutory definition found in 35-A MRSA §3210(2)(B-3). This would maintain consistency with Title 35-A and prevent confusion.

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