



Testimony in Support of LD 385, *An Act To Amend Conflicts in the Laws Governing the Efficiency Maine Trust*

By Josh Caldwell, Climate & Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. My name is Josh Caldwell, I am the Climate and Clean Energy Outreach Coordinator at the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM), and I am testifying today in support of LD 385, *An Act To Amend Conflicts in the Laws Governing the Efficiency Maine Trust*, as proposed to be amended by the bill sponsor.

Help Meet Maine's Climate Goals Through Energy Efficiency

The Maine Climate Action Plan has identified energy efficiency as a crucial component of Maine's approach to climate change mitigation. Currently, the heating, cooling, and lighting of buildings is responsible for nearly one third of Maine's greenhouse gas emissions. Energy efficiency is a proven tool to reduce greenhouse gas pollution, and Maine is well situated to expand energy efficiency projects around the state.

In order to meet Maine's statutorily required reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, the Maine Climate Council determined that the state will need to double weatherization projects by 2025 and weatherize at least 35,000 homes and businesses by 2030, including 10,000 low-income residences. Further, the state will need to install at least 100,000 new heat pumps by 2025, ensuring that by 2030, 130,000 homes are using between 1-2 heat pumps and an additional 115,000 homes are using a whole-home heat-pump system. The amended bill can help the state stay on track toward these goals by codifying them in the laws that govern the Efficiency Maine Trust.

Reduce Energy Costs for Maine Homes and Businesses

Mainers pay more for heating than any other state in the nation because of our older homes and reliance on expensive home heating oil, and low-income residents often pay a much higher percentage of their incomes to meet home energy needs than other Mainers. Energy efficiency work produces valuable energy savings for businesses and homeowners, increasing community resilience and bolstering Maine's economy.

We also know that the transition to clean energy supports hundreds of Maine jobs and businesses and stands to support hundreds more in the years ahead. Energy efficiency expansion, energy equipment installation, electric vehicle infrastructure deployment, and energy grid modernization will generate significant economic benefits for our state.

Resolve Conflicts to Advance a Clean Energy Transition

LD 385 will resolve existing conflicts in the Efficiency Maine Trust Act that will ensure that the laws governing the Efficiency Maine Trust are in sync with Maine's Climate Action Plan. Given the importance of the Climate Action Plan, now is the time to ensure that all entities that have a role in helping address climate change are as aligned as possible to achieve progress.

For these reasons, NRCM supports this LD 385, as amended. Thank you for your consideration, and I welcome any questions that you may have.