

Nancy B Chandler
Topsham

I am Nancy Chandler, resident of Topsham, Maine, where I serve on Topsham's Energy Committee, have a Master in Biology Education and a lifelong interest in Energy Efficiency and Green Energy sources. Last winter my family invested almost \$10,000 in 2 heat pumps and 1 heat pump water heater to replace our leaking oil furnace. We received \$2250 in rebates from Efficiency Maine. Fortunately the house was already well insulated when we purchased it the winter before, so the former owner had spent money on spray foaming the basement below ground level. I have volunteered to develop a training program with 7 Rivers Habitat for Humanity and Maine Sierra Club to train volunteers in house energy systems. I found volunteers in Phippsburg to weatherize 8 homes and inspect trailers in town. We used grant money and Efficiency Maine Trust funds to insulate and replace windows in a basement of a working class mother with 2 children, 1 with asthma. A high percentage of homes in Phippsburg qualify for LIHEAP funds, including this one whose chimney and furnace received repair. A Maine Green Bank that removes barriers to home loans for low income people is necessary for the working class people of Phippsburg to be able to tighten up their houses, reduce heat loss, be warmer in winter, and save money. Efficiency Maine developed it's program for low income home grants during this time, requiring only \$50 from qualifying homeowners to obtain EM grants. EM is the appropriate agency to house Maine's Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator. This will make Maine eligible to receive federal funds from Biden's proposed legislation for a \$35 Billion Clean Energy Accelerator, without requiring Maine bonds. State green banks have leveraged 3 to 8 times the funding put in by state governments. I ask the Committee to vote LD1659 Ought to Pass.