

Testimony in Support of LD 1101

An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System

March 30, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Ziegler, and Honorable Members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology;

On behalf of the American Institute for Architects, Maine Chapter (AIA Maine), I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of LD 1101, An Act to Support Lower Home Energy Costs by Establishing a Home Energy Scoring System.

AIA Maine supports LD 1101 because it would help inform both buyers and sellers about the value of their home with respect to home efficiency. For those who want it, this will mean a useful tool to market both homes and the kind of clean and efficient energy systems that we need to address climate change. This legislation meets a consumer demand while moving the needle on public awareness regarding home energy efficiency.

Maine's building stock is the oldest in the country, and with rising energy prices and more dramatic changes in weather, we have a heightened need to provide Mainers with a reliable and science-based standard for scoring home energy efficient through an auditing system for residential homes.

AIA Maine applauds PassivhausMAINE for its efforts in bringing forward this legislation, and for GrowSmart Maine and BuildMaine for helping advance the bill as part of Policy Action 2023. We welcome the opportunity to support a well-crafted, voluntary program that looks toward the current and future needs of Maine residents in managing their energy consumption at home.

We encourage the EUT Committee to pass LD 1101 with an Ought to Pass report.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Frazier On behalf of AIA Maine efrazier@pierceatwood.com