



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

IN OPPOSITION TO

LD 1778 - An Act to Ensure a Sustainable Electric Grid

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

May 18, 2023

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and Members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology, the Efficiency Maine Trust (the Trust) testifies today **in opposition to LD 1778 - An Act to Ensure a Sustainable Electric Grid**.

The Trust's comments are limited to Sections 10 and 11 of the bill; the Trust offers no comments on Sections 1-9 of the bill.

Sections 10 and 11 of the bill propose to cap the amount of revenues from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) that the Trust can deploy toward its incentives for home weatherization, heat pumps, and certain industrial projects. This is a "re-tread" of identical bill language that was proposed and shot down in each of the prior two legislative sessions. It was a bad idea then; it is a bad idea now.

The RGGI funds are like Type O-positive blood for the Trust – they are the most versatile funding source we have that can serve the widest range of needs and applications. RGGI funds sustain the Trust's budgets for strategically important energy-saving and carbon-saving projects where the Trust sometimes struggles to find alternative sources of funds. They have fewer restrictions on them than the funds we receive from electric and gas utilities or from federal grants. For the past several years and for the foreseeable future, the Trust has deployed these funds successfully to accelerate weatherization projects and heat pumps across the state. This has helped small contractor businesses survive and grow through the pandemic, and has built a juggernaut of businesses offering heat pump services from Kittery to Fort Kent. Customers of every stripe and location have benefitted. Thanks to the initiatives funded by RGGI, Maine is making significant progress on meeting the 2030 goals of *Maine Won't Wait*, the State's climate action plan, with regard to weatherization and heat pumps.

For these reasons, we ask you to strike Sections 10 and 11 from further consideration.

Respectfully,

/s/MDS

Michael D. Stoddard
Executive Director

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LD 1778

CORRECTED version attached.