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Maine Indoor Air Quality Council Testimony Neither For Nor Against LD 2077: An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council is a registered 501 (c)(3) nonprofit here in Maine dedicated to creating healthy, productive, and environmentally sustainable indoor environments. Our membership includes an interdisciplinary mix of professionals, all of whom have interest and expertise in reducing exposures to pollutants trapped indoors.

It is outside of our purview to speak to the issues of natural gas expansion in Maine, but we did wish to comment on the indoor air quality component of this bill.

Exposure to the pollutants created by the burning of fossil fuels that get trapped indoors is a legitimate concern for the health of Maine's citizens. However, these pollutants can be reduced and managed through readily available strategies, primarily proper maintenance of fossil-fuel burning appliances and ventilation.

Should LD 2077 pass, the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council offers its technical support and assistance to the workgroup that is developed to complete the study and reporting requirements of the bill. This is a role we are used to and comfortable with.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Christine G. Crocker'.

Christine G. Crocker, Executive Director
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January 31, 2024

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