

From the desk of Kevin Violette 1/22/2024

In Opposition to LD 2077

Good afternoon, Senate chair Lawrence, House Chair Zeigler and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology. My name is Kevin Violette. I am the president of the L.N. Violette Company, a five generation-old general contractor, and I oppose LD 2077 (a proposal to stop the expansion of natural gas infrastructure).

The real estate development companies I manage require cooperative infrastructure to create affordable housing in Maine. Summit Gas roughed-in gas mains in a new Waterville city street I am developing for 41 retirement homes at no cost to me, the developer, or any future homeowners. This access to natural gas in the front lawns of the first phase of homes helps us build energy efficient homes with a reliable, affordable, and greener heat source, especially in combination with heat pump technology. This available natural gas supply along with all other underground utility access -water, sewer, phone, cable, power- helps us build new efficient homes for Waterville residents.

Do not take away this option that enhances affordable housing options for retirees and others in Central Maine. Not only does it keep new housing costs down but reduces residential emissions. This compares to installing oil furnaces and chimneys, which was standard practice for L.N. Violette's building projects in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. Let's not go backwards. Let's move forward for energy efficiency, lower emissions, and affordable new construction options.

Sincerely,

Kevin Violette

