



**RETAIL
ASSOCIATION OF
MAINE**
Voice of Maine Retail

45 Melville Street, Suite 1
Augusta, ME 04330
Phone: 207.623.1149
www.retailmaine.org



March 16, 2023

Senator Tim Nangle, Chair
Representative Holly Stover, Chair
Members of the State and Local Committee

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of LD 894, An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor

Dear Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and members of the Labor and Housing Committee:

My name is Curtis Picard and I am the President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. I am a resident of Topsham. We have more than 350 members statewide and represent retailers of all sizes. Maine's retailers employ more than 85,000 Mainers. We are here today to testify in support of LD 894.

We understand the importance of conversations around how Mainers heat their homes and businesses, and the importance of the evolution of heating systems that get away from fossil fuels. However, we are concerned that certain municipalities would look to regulate or limit the types of heating systems that could be used whether they be wood, oil, gas and electricity.

By law, local building codes must follow the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code, which permits regulation of heating and energy installations based on safety. LD 894 does not remove this authority.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Curtis Picard, CAE,
President and CEO