



155 West Main St.  
Fort Kent, ME 04743  
(207)834-5027

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Testimony by Daigle Oil Company in Support of LD 556: An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the State and Local Government Committee, my name is Carter Vaillancourt, Chief Operating Officer at Daigle Oil Company located in Fort Kent, Maine.

Daigle Oil Company, also known as DOC, was founded in 1955 by Guy Daigle in Fort Kent, Maine. What originally started as a single oil truck delivering heating fuel to the Fort Kent area, Daigle Oil Company has experienced continued growth in the petroleum industry throughout its years of business. For seventy years in business as a distributor of home heating fuels, diesel fuels, gasoline, propane, full service retail motor fuel stations, as well as full service HVAC departments servicing heating and cooling equipment, Daigle Oil steadily grew to become one of the most reputable members of the greater community. Over the years, the company has grown to now operate with seven retail motor fuel stations and five home comfort centers throughout Northern Maine. DOC focuses on both residential and commercial customers, providing services to its geographical Northern Maine market ranging from Fort Kent to Bangor and all areas in between the surrounding Canadian borders. Today, Daigle Oil Company, now employee owned, has grown to become a leading energy provider employing 160 employees who work together as a team to continue the vision that was started by its founder, many years ago.

As recent studies have shown, over 85% of Maine voters who were surveyed expressed they should have the right to choose how they heat their homes and businesses. Over the last decade of personal industry experience, this philosophy is consistent with local consumer behavior when purchasing heating fuels and equipment. During times of varying global energy conditions, consumers have demanded heating equipment and associated fuel based on what is reliable, cost-effective, and adequately supplied. This is one of the driving forces behind Daigle Oil's diversification strategy and to provide the consumer the energy that suits them best. In most cases, speaking specifically to Northern Maine residential and commercial applications,

consumers have multiple forms of heating equipment in their home or facility. There are numerous benefits to this, including being able to choose which heat source is most cost effective at that point in time, but more importantly allows for a means of backup in the event that a system should fail, or a temporary cease of energy supply. In any industry, it is not uncommon to experience supply chain disruptions and backlogs as part of normal course of business. During those occurrences, whether needing a replacement part, resupply of fuel, or awaiting a service technician to arrive, having other sources of heat to use in the meantime can be crucial. On a frigid January night, people rely on their systems to provide heat and it has been our experience that having the ability to choose amongst various heating sources has been a critical 'lifesaver.'

A diversified portfolio of energy and one's ability to choose is very important in any event. It is our position that LD 556 would ensure safe, reliable energy sources for everyone, all while maintaining clean and sustainable environments. For these reasons, it is with great hope that consideration is given towards this bill and voted with ought to pass.

Sincerely,

Carter Vaillancourt  
Chief Operating Officer  
Daigle Oil Company