

Our homes are our biggest investment.

This session, Maine legislators can save Maine families money and protect health and the environment, by setting cost-effective standards for energy efficiency in new construction.

Skyrocketing heating bills, hard-earned dollars pouring out-of-state to buy oil and gas, global warming and air pollution...all of these problems point to the need to use energy wisely.

Despite our harsh winters and high heating bills, Maine is one of only six states nationwide that lacks a building energy code for new home construction.

Unfortunately, here in Maine, some brand new homes being built today are sub-standard when it comes to energy use. These new homes end up costing their owners so much more in energy bills that it would be illegal to build them in most other states.

The expense of heating a home is a major part of the cost of home ownership. Appropriate standards will lower this expense and deliver the affordable value that homebuyers deserve.

Fortunately, there are many cost-effective, energy efficient building methods already in widespread use.

Maine's Legislature has a strong record of supporting measures that provide energy, environmental, consumer and economic benefits.

Set Reasonable Energy Standards For New Homes

Save Maine Homeowners Energy and Money, Cut Global Warming Pollution



Maine families cannot afford to build energy sieves.

Building standards ensure better performance, lower ownership costs and smarter investments.

Lack of Energy Standards Puts Maine Families at a Disadvantage

- Maine is the only state in New England without a mandatory residential energy building code.
- Home ownership is most Mainers' largest investment. Building energy standards offer consumer protection for owners of new homes.
- We build about 7500 new homes each year and 65% of home energy use is for heating.
- New homes can meet the codes with little to no additional costs (any costs are recovered quickly through reduced energy costs.)
- New homes last many generations. If we build them inefficiently, Mainers will be stuck with the cost of maintaining them, or subsidies to retrofit them after-the-fact.

More Efficient Homes Help Lower Maine's Global Warming Emissions

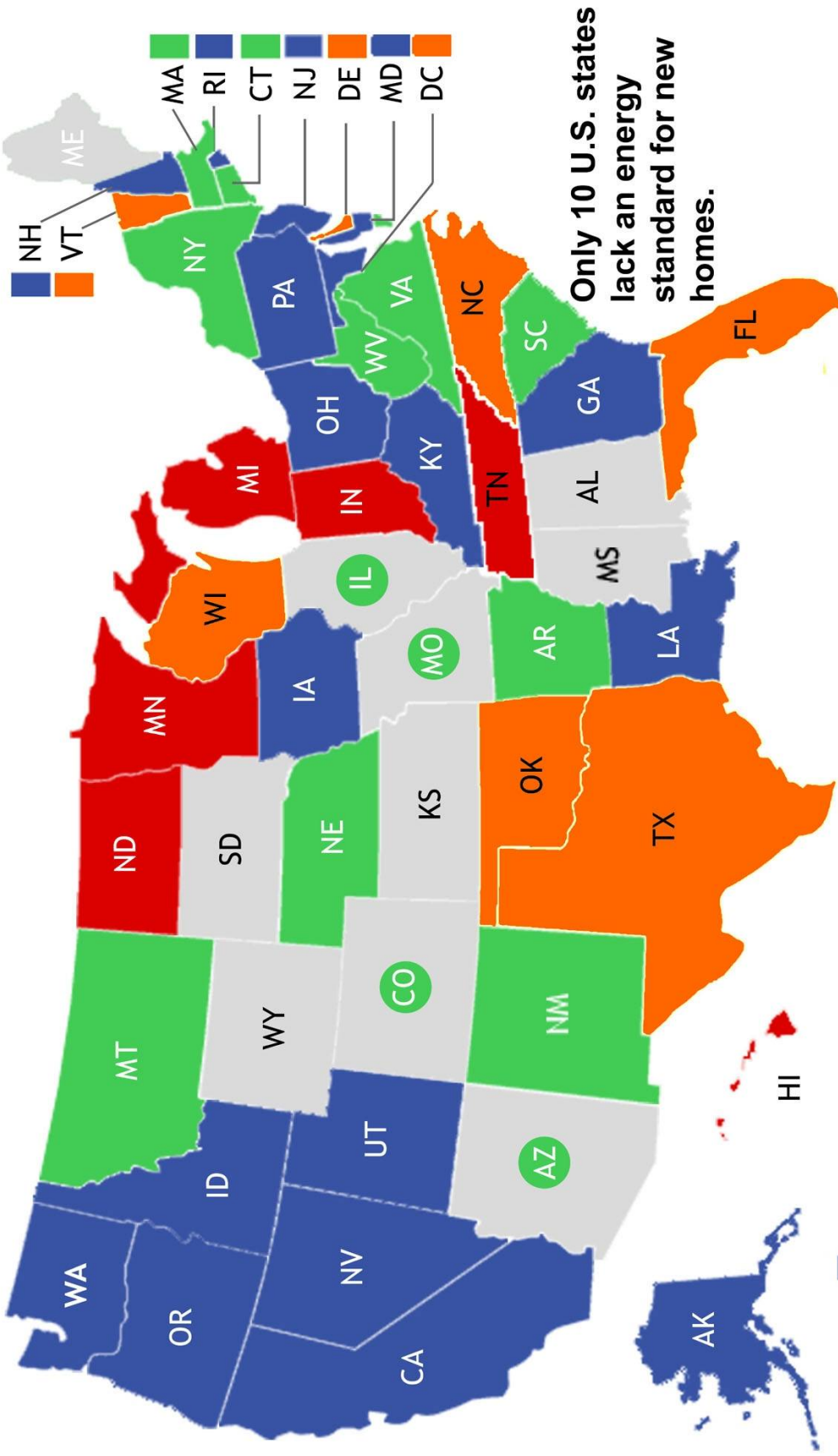
- Homes produce more global warming emissions than the commercial or industrial sectors.
- This legislation could save about 100,000 tons/year of CO₂ by 2020.
- This bill is also an important next step in Maine's *Climate Action Plan* (among top-ten most cost-effective strategies in the *Plan*).

Maine Homebuyers Deserve Reasonably Efficient Homes

An Act to Promote Home Energy Conservation (LD 2179):

- Sets a reasonable minimum standard to ensure new homes constructed in Maine are not excessively wasteful.
- Establishes tax incentives for high-performance buildings that exceed this standard.
- Trains energy code inspectors to confirm consumer value.
- Informs home buyers whether the home they are purchasing is energy efficient.
- Gives municipalities the opportunity to train and certify energy inspectors without any mandates.

Maine is the *only* Northeastern state lacking statewide residential energy codes



Only 10 U.S. states lack an energy standard for new homes.

Source:
Building Codes Assistance Project
www.bcac-energy.org