May 2011

Senator Michael Thibodeau, Chair Representative Stacey Fitts, Chair Joint Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology Senator Richard Rosen, Chair Representative Patrick Flood, Chair Joint Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairmen Thibodeau, Fitts, Rosen, and Flood and members of the Committees,

As Maine businesses, we are keenly aware of the high costs of energy. That is why we have worked to reduce our energy costs through energy efficiency investments and why we urge the Maine Legislature to make energy efficiency one of its top priorities this year.

Each of our companies has reduced our energy costs substantially through public-private energy efficiency investments, and we have found that energy efficiency represents one of the most cost-effective investments Maine can make. Maine must continue its momentum in supporting investments in energy efficiency in Maine homes, businesses, and industry. We know that energy efficiency plays a significant role in reducing energy costs, and it improves the economic health and competitiveness of Maine businesses.

We represent some of the more than 3,000 Maine businesses that have saved in excess of \$256 million on our energy bills since 2004, thanks in large part to collaborative projects with Efficiency Maine programs. The money we save is money that can be put to use in building our individual businesses and the Maine economy as a whole. Our accomplishments would not have been possible without the essential assistance of programs managed by the Efficiency Maine Trust, and also the skilled work of a growing sector of energy efficiency companies across Maine. Without these efforts, our energy costs would be higher and we would be less competitive.

Energy efficiency can seem like a "no-brainer," but Maine businesses generally do not have the time or expertise to determine which investments make sense, which products and services can be trusted, or how to make it happen. Efficiency Maine provides many needed elements that help businesses large and small overcome barriers and make smart investments.

Energy efficiency is an investment—for Maine just as it is for individual businesses. Since 2004, **Maine businesses have invested more than \$122 million of our own funds to match \$25 million in Efficiency Maine grants and rebates**. This record of success in leveraging investment capital is worthy of continued support—and that is what we hope you and your colleagues in the Legislature will do.

Energy efficiency is one of the only options we have to control energy bills, since energy prices are driven by regional and international energy markets over which we have limited control. There are few investments available with such excellent rates of return. We know that the projects completed in Maine have barely scratched the surface of what can be accomplished in the future, through projects that help make Maine as energy efficient as possible during a period of high energy costs.

For these reasons, we urge you to make energy efficiency a priority during this legislative session, and work actively and in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that Efficiency Maine Trust has adequate resources to capture all cost-effective energy efficiency identified in Maine homes and businesses, and thus continue its forward momentum to help many thousands of additional businesses save energy in the coming years.

26 Bridgton Rd Realty LLC, Falmouth Robert Gaudreau
5 Karen Drive Associates, LLC, Cumberland Advance Technology, Scarborough Jesse Abbott
AED LLC, Orr's Island Arthur Dyer Affiliated Material Services, Bangor Daryl Briggs Aghaloma Farms, Knox Harold Larrabee Alfond Youth Center, Waterville Len LeGrand Allagash Brewing Company, Portland Rob Tod

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