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DAN BURGESS  
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S  
ENERGY OFFICE

**TESTIMONY OF DAN BURGESS, DIRECTOR, GOVERNOR'S ENERGY OFFICE**

**Before the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology**

**"An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2021, June 30, 2022 and June 30, 2023"**

**February 24, 2021**

Good morning Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs; Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

My name is Dan Burgess, and I am the Director of the Governor's Energy Office (GEO). I am here today to testify in support of the fiscal year 2022-2023 biennial budget bill, LD221, specifically those items on today's agenda for the GEO.

As Governor Mills said, at a time when Maine people are hurting, when small businesses are struggling to keep their doors open, when the ranks of the unemployed have swelled, and when we are fighting a deadly virus all around us, we are proposing balanced budgets as required by the Constitution that continue efficiencies, good fiscal management and curtailments to cover projected revenue shortfalls for all three fiscal years. They focus on combatting the COVID-19 pandemic by continuing to rebuild the State's public health infrastructure and protecting essential health care, education, and life-saving services. They do not change Maine tax rates and they maintain the Budget Stabilization Fund. With a future made unpredictable due to the ongoing pandemic, these budgets make good on the promise of government, which is to protect and support the wellbeing of our people and institutions.

The GEO section can be found on page A-200 of the budget bill. The program contains a General Fund appropriation of \$300,000 in each year, a Federal

Expenditures Fund allocation of \$2,217,660 in FY22 and \$2,338,159 in FY23 and an Other Special Revenue Fund allocation of \$258,343 in FY22 and \$259,064 in FY23. There are 2 headcount in the Federal Expenditures Fund and 1 headcount in the Other Special Revenue Fund. The GEO is currently made up of six employees in total, including myself, the three headcount identified here and three limited period positions one of which we will cover in the Office's only initiative.

The GEO strives to advance a clean energy future that is affordable and reliable for the residents and businesses of Maine. The GEO is the designated state energy office and is responsible for planning and coordinating state energy policy and serves as the primary energy policy advisor to the Governor. The GEO completes this work with significant engagement among other state agencies, as well as the legislature, industry, universities and other private and nonprofit sectors. This work also includes coordinating across New England on all energy issues. Energy policy is changing quickly, and the GEO works on policies that include renewable energy, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, energy storage, home heating and many others.

The office is supported primarily through the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program (SEP). The GEO manages a small State Heating Oil and Propane Price Program grant, receives some limited funding from Efficiency Maine Trust, has some funding from the U.S. Economic Development Agency and the U.S. Climate Alliance, and is in the process of closing out two U.S. DOE competitive grants dedicated to specific projects.

The initiative in the program continues one Public Service Coordinator II position as a limited period position and transfers funding from All Other to Personal Services to support this position. The position serves an analyst and advisor to the Director of the GEO. The analyst is a key member of the GEO and will provide support and analysis of data on a wide variety of energy topics. There are two other grant funded limited period positions in the GEO which do not need to be extended in this document.

Thank you and I am pleased to answer any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Burgess".

Dan Burgess