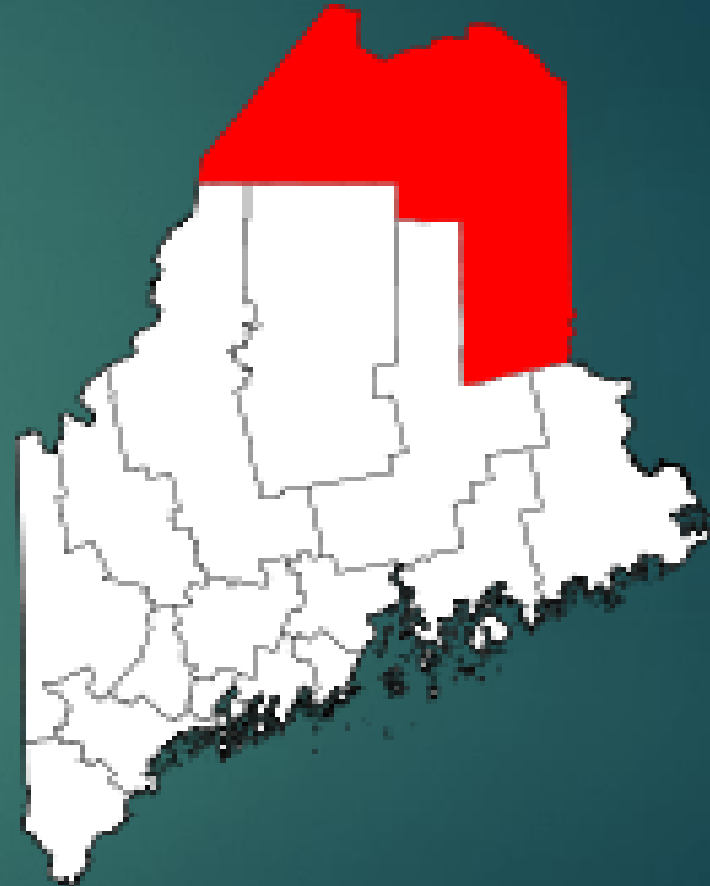


# A Modern Wood Heating Vision for The County

REP. TREY STEWART (PRESQUE ISLE)

AROOSTOOK PARTNERSHIP



# Challenges facing the industry

- ▶ Higher up-front costs for wood heat than other sources
  - ▶ Roughly twice the installment costs compared to oil
- ▶ Lower awareness as a heating option
- ▶ Misconceptions about the industry



# Current legislature

- ▶ Some resistance to biomass industry currently in *Maine*
  - ▶ LD 1745. Vetoed. Sustained May 5, 2018.
    - ▶ Re-purposes unused 2016 biomass funding and establishes the Wood Energy Fund and Wood Energy Program under the Efficiency Maine Trust.
    - ▶ Can be re-submitted next session
- ▶ Next election cycle will have implications for the future of biomass and wood energy in *Maine*



# Future legislature

- ▶ Highly contingent on who wins in November and makeup of the legislature
- ▶ Potential to re-sponsor similar bills to LD 1745 and more
- ▶ Priorities:
  - ▶ Increasing awareness and sharing of information about the industry
  - ▶ Improving access to low- or zero-interest loans for installments
  - ▶ Expanding markets in general



# Legislative approach

- ▶ Changing the process of how schools and other large government buildings are designed to consider wood heat as an option
  - ▶ Not a requirement to include, but at least consider in the process
- ▶ There are currently no legislators from The County on the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee in the legislature
  - ▶ We need to diversify our legislative capacity better than we currently do to ensure that The County and Northern/rural Maine has a voice in each policy area



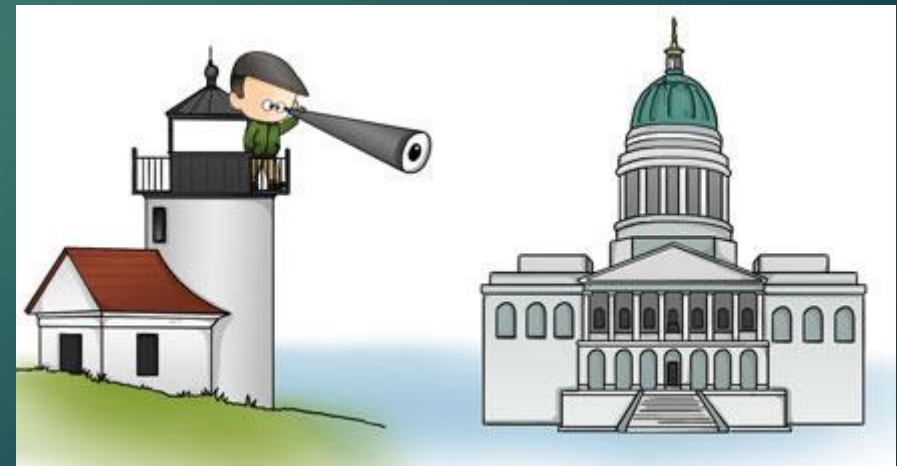
# Why does it matter?

- ▶ A strong wood heating sector helps stabilize and grow the forest products industry
- ▶ Ensuring our assets stay local and employ local people rather than states or countries that are far from here
- ▶ It's cheaper in the long-run and can save money
- ▶ It's a carbon-neutral form of energy and an environmentally-sound decision
- ▶ \$8.5 billion and 33,000 jobs in Maine and growing
  - ▶ Growth in rural Maine is contingent upon us using the assets we have!
  - ▶ MDF predicts 40% growth in sector in Maine



# How can you help?

- ▶ Stay informed about the options for heating
  - ▶ Particularly for new buildings!
- ▶ Consider making wood heat a priority for your next build
- ▶ Engage with your legislators to ensure they're supportive of the industry
- ▶ Help spread the word



Thank you!

