



Memorandum

July 24, 2024

To: Board of Trustees

From: Peter Eglinton, Deputy Director

Re: 2025 Membership Renewals

Proposed Motion

Move to authorize the Executive Director to renew Efficiency Maine's group memberships in FY2025 in the amount of \$38,000 or less.

Background

In July 2021, the Board suggested that Staff consolidate, in a single annual request, proposals for approval of group memberships in efficiency trade organizations. For FY2025, Staff proposes to renew five memberships that continue to bring value to our programs and staff. Following are summaries of each:

- The Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) is a nonprofit trade association of energy efficiency program administrators like Efficiency Maine. CEE develops initiatives for its North American members to promote the manufacture and purchase of energy-efficient products and services. CEE prepares national studies, delivers workshops, and conducts analyses to help energy efficiency program administrators perform their duties and improve their performance. CEE's goal is to induce lasting structural and behavioral changes in the marketplace, resulting in the increased adoption of energy-efficient technologies. CEE members, including Efficiency Maine Trust, are eligible to participate in committees and workshops as part of their membership.

Efficiency Maine has been a CEE member for more than 13 years. Staff regularly attends workshops and reviews reports that provide valuable information about program results from other jurisdictions and lessons learned about best practices in program administration. Membership dues for calendar year 2024 are \$26,146, which is based primarily on the number of electric and natural gas customers in the state. We expect the next invoice early in calendar year 2025. The FY2025 budget already reflects anticipated expenditures in an amount sufficient to renew the membership.

- The Association of Energy Services Providers (AESP) is a nonprofit, membership-based association of individuals and organizations interested in the delivery and implementation of energy efficiency, demand-side management, distributed energy resources and demand response programs. Examples of members include utilities (investor-owned, municipal and cooperatives); energy marketers; consultants; manufacturers and suppliers; federal and state

government officials; public benefits agencies; and end-users. AESP members gain access to discounted or free courses and workshops; participation on topic committees and with regional chapters; a library of energy-related resources and “best practices”; and opportunities to post job announcements and network with others in the energy field.

FY2022 was the first year the Trust joined as a group member. We continue to see the membership as a way to provide professional development opportunities for the staff as well as a forum for interacting with our peers and associated service providers. Membership for FY2025 will be \$3,125. The FY2025 budget already reflects anticipated expenditures in an amount sufficient to renew the membership.

- The Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) is a non-profit organization that has been working to share information about energy efficiency in the northeast for decades. Its mission is to “Accelerate regional collaboration to promote advanced energy efficiency and related solutions in homes, buildings, industry, and communities.”

EMT has participated in select NEEP initiatives in the past where there is a value-added opportunity to the Trust, its mission, and programs. This opportunity is present where discussions are being held about new technologies, research, market trends, or policies that will have implications for the EMT programs. The NEEP Allies Program supplements EMT’s other channels as a way to keep informed about regional efficiency trends and important topics and to participate in events with a regional network of efficiency leaders and stakeholders. Membership for FY2025 is \$2,500, which is the same as last year. The FY2025 budget already reflects anticipated expenditures in an amount sufficient to renew the membership.

- The Maine Real Estate & Development Association (MEREDA) is a non-profit entity whose mission is to promote an environment for responsible development and ownership of real estate throughout the state of Maine. MEREDA accomplishes its mission through legislative advocacy, regulatory oversight, sponsorship of programs and conferences, and by serving as a unified and proactive representative for real estate and economic development interests. MEREDA members are eligible to participate in conferences and events as a part of their membership. Before MEREDA began requiring their conference participants and sponsors to be members, Efficiency Maine regularly attended MEREDA events. MEREDA’s annual membership dues for Municipal/Governmental organizations are \$300.
- Environmental & Energy Technology Council of Maine (E2Tech) is a member-based organization comprised of individuals, businesses, and organizations that seek to build Maine’s environmental and energy technology economy. They hold events to share knowledge and foster connections and support a portfolio of research, development, and demonstration projects. The Trust’s executive director sits on the E2Tech Board, and Staff routinely helps organize and present at E2Tech events of interest to the Trust. The dues for a “Non-profit or Education-Large (25+ employees)” organization is \$250.

In addition to these renewals, we may encounter opportunities to weigh in on and present at conferences that require memberships with non-partisan trade associations in Maine. In addition, Staff are active with other green banks across the country, which are contemplating forming a membership organization to coordinate on Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund activities. Staff proposes to include approximately \$6,000 of unallocated authorization in the proposed motion below to allow a limited number of such situations, as well as to provide a modest buffer in case actual renewal amounts for the memberships exceed last year's costs.