

M. Susan Erich  
Orono  
LD1679

I write to support "An Act To Establish the Maine Climate Change Council To Assist Maine To Mitigate, Prepare for and Adapt to Climate Change" bill number, LD 1679. I am a soil scientist. I live in Orono and have taught and done research related to carbon in soils at the University of Maine for over 30 years. In the past 100 years, Maine has experienced about a 3 degree F average temperature increase and about a 6 inches increase in average annual precipitation. We are among the northern areas where warming is most significant, and the rate of warming has increased in the past 20 years. Without federal leadership on this issue, actions at the state level are extremely important. The actions in this bill will put Maine in a position of leadership on climate change, regionally and even nationally. Moving Maine to a renewable energy future will catalyze innovation and economic opportunities, and will protect our environment for all our people, particularly farmers, foresters, and fishermen, who depend on healthy ecosystems for their livelihoods. I have a son who lives on Vinalhaven and is a fisherman. I'm concerned about his future, and that of every young person in our state. For personal and professional reasons, I strongly support this reasonable and important step forward on climate change.