



To: Maine Legislature Committee on State and Local Government

From: Amy Eshoo, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: January 26, 2024

Re: LD 2167: *An Act to Develop Maine's Economy and Strengthen Its Workforce by Establishing an Office of New Americans* - OUGHT TO PASS

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and Honorable members of the Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Amy Eshoo. I am a resident of North Yarmouth and Director for Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN), a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations who support equitable transformative action in response to the climate crisis.

Two of the member organizations of our coalition are the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition and Gateway Community Services. We have created climate educational programs with both these members and as a coalition have learned of the strengths and engagement of New Mainers through collaboration. In our [Climate Migration to Maine](#) panel discussion last fall we learned how Mainers can welcome current and future climate migrants to our communities.

We believe that this bill, establishing the Office of New Americans and an advisory council to that Office, will support the long-term economic and civic integration of immigrants in the State's workforce and communities and therefore will improve all Mainers' economic situations and all our communities. We also understand that there is a need to assure equity and justice is centered in our climate actions in order to benefit us all. To do so, we need to work with new Mainer communities. Better integrating new Americans and preparing established Americans in the state to embrace everyone will allow us all to thrive and succeed. MCAN hopes this will lead us to meet the challenge of the climate crisis in an equitable and transformative way.

By preparing ourselves and Maine to welcome and integrate all newcomers we can participate in making Maine into a vibrant, diverse and strong state. Please vote Ought To Pass for LD 2167. Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Eshoo
Maine Climate Action Now
LD 2167

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