



Maine Beer Company
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A written testimony in support of LD 1679:
An Act to Establish the Maine Climate Change Council to Assist Maine to Mitigate, Prepare for and Adapt to Climate Change.

5/17/19

To Chairman Carson, Chairman Tucker, and the Members of the Committee,

Hello, my name is Daniel Kleban, co-owner and co-founder of Maine Beer Company based in Freeport, Maine. My brother and I moved to Maine in 1999 because we were drawn to the natural beauty of the state. When we started our business, we wanted to do something different, and prove that environmental stewardship and a healthy bottom line can go hand in hand. We made taking care of our environment one of the key tenants of our business.

The first step was joining 1% for the Planet and pledging to donate 1% of our gross annual sales to environmental nonprofits. The next step was to offset the energy we use by generating clean energy. In 2015, we made the conscious decision to install a 50kW solar array to offset our energy use rather than to expand and grow our business. Now in 2019, following a recent expansion we are adding more solar, and have set the goal of producing more clean energy than we use by 2030. This includes providing solar for some of our select environmental nonprofit partners, the first being Wolfe's Neck Center for Agriculture and the Environment.

We believe that a healthy climate is essential to a healthy economy and the private sector must be part of this solution. With climate change being largely ignored at a federal level, the passing of LD 1679 is an opportunity for Maine to be a leader in working to mitigate climate change. State support of environmental initiatives will help make these goals more attainable for smaller businesses throughout our state. Money saved from lower energy costs can be reinvested to create more jobs and a more robust economy.

As a small business owner who has seen that you can be successful while working towards a greener future, I support LD 1679, and strongly urge the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to do the same.

Thank you,

Daniel Kleban
Co-owner/Co-founder
Maine Beer Company