

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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context; second, falsely believing that everyone who might have read my post in the brief time I kept it online would understand the satirical nature of something written explicitly to critique a personal friend's vulgar language; and third, assuming that I could fight fire with fire and tamper inflammatory language by assuming the persona of a liberal doppelganger to my friend's vitriolic, self-described alt-right ideology. The path out of this dark place in American political discourse will be illuminated by light, not by more darkness. And as the President said in 2009 about using violence as a means to an end, his words, I believe, also apply to the violent language we are slowly getting desensitized to as a nation. He said, "For centuries black people in America suffered the lash of the whip as slaves and the humiliation of segregation. But it was not violence that won full and equal rights, it was a peaceful and determined insistence upon the ideals at the center of America's founding. The same story could be told by people from South Africa to South Asia, from Eastern Europe to Indonesia. It's a story with a simple truth, that violence is a dead end. That's not how moral authority is claimed, that's how it's surrendered." Men and Women of the House, violent language, even when it's used to counter violent language, is not how moral authority is claimed, that's how it's surrendered. I am sorry to those who I have offended. Just because I have a First Amendment right to say something or do something doesn't mean it's always appropriate to do so, regardless of literary intent, and I have learned this lesson. Moving forward, I pledge each day to continue to bring a firm but respectful tone and temperament to my political and professional work, and to reject the tone and temperament I used in that isolated moment in my personal life when I attempted to critique my friend's vitriolic idiolect. I pledge to continue working tirelessly on behalf of my constituents, whose outpouring of support was a sign to me that people who really know me, and who know my core values, they haven't let a single incident overshadow their perception about who I am. I won't mention names, but I have been moved to receive calls and supportive messages from colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and in fact, colleagues in all four caucuses. People who know me know I'll keep moving the needle on issues I hold dear to my heart: child poverty, taking care of seniors, getting people access to drug treatment, ensuring fewer babies are born addicted to heroin, supporting schools, teachers, and students, protecting the environment, and ensuring Maine's economy has the workers it needs to thrive. These are issues my constituents care about deeply, and I won't quit working on their behalf, nor will I change course on my objectives. Further, I will not stop expressing my point of view and advocating on behalf of those who do not have a seat at the table. But my promise to this body is that I will never let a hint of that satirical language find its way into my work in this sacred institution. I never have in the past, and I will not in the future. And finally, Men and Women of the House, I pledge to take a few deep breaths every now and then, step back on occasion, and remind myself to recognize the commonalities in our political objectives rather than concern myself with our partisan divisions. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 304)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

June 30, 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1147, "An Act to Modernize the Renewable Portfolio Standard."

Under Title 35-A, M.R.S. §3210(3-A), Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) has included a requirement for electricity customers to purchase increasing amounts of electricity from qualified "new renewable capacity resources" (Class I resources), starting in 2008 as a 1% requirement and ending in 2017 as a 10% requirement. LD 1147 would extend the 10% requirement through 2022.

The RPS in Maine is a subsidy paid to renewable generators that is hidden in the bills of all electric customers. I have long opposed such subsidies—especially hiding them in Maine's electric bills. In addition, this subsidy is not even meeting its intended purpose, which is to encourage new renewable electricity generation. Over the five-year period between 2011 and 2015, the Class I RPS cost ratepayers nearly \$70 million in above-market costs. Yet, over this same period, the amount of renewable generation produced in Maine decreased by approximately 8%. Therefore, Mainers spent \$70 million and received no increase in the amount of renewable generation produced in Maine.

A subsidy that costs Maine ratepayers \$70 million over five years, but fails to meet its intended purpose, is a subsidy that needs to end.

For these reasons, I return LD 1147 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,
S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE. Sent for concurrence.

The accompanying item An Act To Modernize the Renewable Portfolio Standard

(H.P. 810) (L.D. 1147)
(S. "A" S-290 to C. "A" H-272)

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 427V

YEA - Ackley, Alley, Austin B, Babbidge, Bailey, Bates, Battle, Berry, Bickford, Black, Blume, Bradstreet, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Casas, Chace, Chapman, Collings, Cooper, Corey, Craig, Daughtry, DeChant, Denno, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy, Farnsworth, Farrin, Fay, Fecteau, Foley, Fredette, Frey, Fuller, Gattine, Gillway, Golden, Grant, Grohman, Guerin, Hamann, Handy, Harlow, Harvell, Herbig, Herrick, Hickman, Higgins, Hilliard, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kinney M, Kornfield, Kumiega, Lawrence,

Longstaff, Luchini, Madigan C, Madigan J, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCrea, McCreight, McElwee, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Nadeau, O'Neil, Parker, Parry, Perry, Picchiotti, Pierce J, Pierce T, Pouliot, Reckitt, Riley, Rykerson, Sanborn, Schneck, Seavey, Sheats, Sherman, Simmons, Skolfield, Spear, Stanley, Stearns, Stewart, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Timberlake, Tipping, Tucker, Tuell, Wadsworth, Ward, Warren, White, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Campbell, Dillingham, Espling, Ginzler, Grignon, Haggan, Hanington, Hanley, Hawke, Head, Johansen, Lockman, Lyford, Malaby, Mason, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Prescott, Reed, Sampson, Sanderson, Sirocki, Stetkis, Strom, Sutton, Theriault, Vachon, Wallace, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Austin S, Beebe-Center, Cebra, Gerrish, Harrington, Kinney J, Marean, McLean, Turner.

Yes, 109; No, 32; Absent, 9; Excused, 1.

109 having voted in the affirmative and 32 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Veto was **NOT SUSTAINED**. Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 308)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

July 5, 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 481, "An Act To Promote Workforce Participation." This bill would have provided a \$400 bonus to welfare recipients for maintaining a job for just 4 months, rewarding them for something they really should be doing anyway. I understand the desire to motivate people to stay in a job, but at some point government needs to step back and let people figure it out on their own. Why do we feel compelled to have government step in and reward people for doing what they are already supposed to do?

We cannot continue to treat low-income Mainers like children, always trying to coax them to do right things. A steady job with a steady paycheck is a reward in itself that increasingly pushes a person toward greater self-reliance and self-sufficiency. I believe Mainers are capable of success without constant intrusion and prodding by State government. For these reasons, I return LD 481 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,
S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE. Sent for concurrence.

The accompanying item An Act To Promote Workforce Participation (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 344) (L.D. 481)
(H. "A" H-548 to C. "A" H-326)

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 428V

YEA - Ackley, Alley, Austin B, Babbidge, Bailey, Bates, Battle, Berry, Bickford, Black, Blume, Bradstreet, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Casas, Chace, Chapman, Collings, Cooper, Corey, Craig, Daughtry, DeChant, Denno, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy, Espling, Farnsworth, Fay, Fecteau, Foley, Fredette, Frey, Fuller, Gattine, Gillway, Ginzler, Golden, Grant, Grohman, Guerin, Haggan, Hamann, Handy, Harlow, Harvell, Hawke, Herbig, Herrick, Hickman, Higgins, Hilliard, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kinney M, Kornfield, Kumiega, Lawrence, Longstaff, Luchini, Madigan C, Madigan J, Malaby, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCrea, McCreight, McElwee, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Nadeau, O'Neil, Parker, Parry, Perry, Picchiotti, Pierce J, Pierce T, Pouliot, Reckitt, Rykerson, Sampson, Sanborn, Sanderson, Schneck, Seavey, Sheats, Sherman, Simmons, Skolfield, Spear, Stanley, Stearns, Stewart, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Theriault, Timberlake, Tipping, Tucker, Vachon, Wadsworth, Ward, Warren, Winsor, Wood, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Campbell, Dillingham, Farrin, Grignon, Hanington, Hanley, Head, Johansen, Lockman, Lyford, Mason, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Prescott, Reed, Sirocki, Stetkis, Strom, Sutton, Tuell, Wallace, White.

ABSENT - Austin S, Beebe-Center, Cebra, Gerrish, Harrington, Kinney J, Marean, McLean, Riley, Turner.

Yes, 116; No, 24; Absent, 10; Excused, 1.

116 having voted in the affirmative and 24 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Veto was **NOT SUSTAINED**. Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 309)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

July 5, 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1512, "An Act To Protect the Health and Safety of First Responders."

I want to make very clear that I think we should make laws that protect those who put their lives on the line to protect the safety of the public. That is why I was a proponent of this bill as it was introduced by the Department of Public Safety. There have been several bills introduced this session to protect first responders or victims of horrible crimes. These bills have either failed to get the required votes to reach my desk or they have been watered down to the point that they do absolutely nothing—which was the unfortunate fate of this bill. I sincerely hope that in the future, first responders find the support they deserve in the State House.

Because this bill has been amended to the point that it does nothing to protect the safety of first responders, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I return LD 1512 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.