

David Gibson  
Morrill  
LD 142

My name is David Gibson. I am the Director of Energy at College of the Atlantic, where I am leading efforts to transition our campus off of fossil fuels by 2030. I highly encourage you to support LD 142, An Act to Fund Climate-related Service Work.

I have extensive experience with AmeriCorps programs. This includes serving as an AmeriCorps Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA) for 1.5 years (2009-2011) with the non-profit Envirolution in Reno, Nevada; 3 years overseeing other AmeriCorps Volunteers (2011-2014) for Envirolution; and creating a new AmeriCops program, the Nevada Clean Energy Corps (2015/2016), while I worked for the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy. I hope that my past service and experience provides benefit and useful insights for this committee.

In 2009, after three years of working in construction management in Connecticut and New Jersey, I resigned from my job in order to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA with Envirolution in Reno. Envirolution was a small start-up non-profit that had been created by some colleagues I knew from Connecticut. While serving as an AmeriCorps member, I developed hands-on lessons and curriculum to teach middle school and high school students about energy efficiency and clean energy. We developed partnerships with local schools where I worked directly in the classroom, leading students on energy assessments of their school buildings. I created homework assignments that had the students identifying how their homes use energy and ways to reduce energy use and costs for their families.

Over 5 years, I transitioned from an AmeriCorps member to staff at Envirolution, and managed other AmeriCorps members as they helped expand the programmatic offerings and reach. We led professional development workshops for teachers in Reno and Las Vegas, training hundreds of teachers how to use the lessons, materials and curriculum that we developed to teach their students. We helped the students to identify energy-saving measures for their schools, and student teams develop cost-saving proposals for their school administrators. Today, Envirolution is actively working with 250+ teachers at 115 schools, and has reached more than 85,000 students. This is the impact that AmeriCorps programs can have for the local community. (<https://envirolution.org/programs/education/project-recharge/>)

This funding will help to implement climate solutions in Maine, offer on the job training for members, and for people like me: it offers the opportunity to explore a new career path that is beneficial for the state and the planet. I wouldn't be in the role I have today without AmeriCorps programs like this one.

Thank you Representative Rielly for bringing this forward.