



Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
% Legislative Information Office
100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

April 24, 2023

RE: LD 1621, An Act Regarding Environmental Justice

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of LD 1621, An Act Regarding Environmental Justice, on behalf of Maine Audubon and our 30,000 members, supporters, and volunteers.

In Maine and across the world, climate change poses the greatest threats to communities that are already marginalized, overburdened, and underserved. People who live in substandard housing, who are experiencing homelessness, or who lack reliable transportation are more vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather caused by climate change.

Maine lacks a protective legal framework to ensure that environmental policies to combat climate change are developed, implemented, and enforced in close partnership with the communities impacted “first and worst” by climate threats. LD 1621 would create such a framework, consistent with the Maine Climate Council’s Equity Subcommittee’s recommendations.

Maine Audubon supports this bill as a leading strategy to provide long-overdue protections to Maine’s most underserved communities. We urge the Committee to join us in our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eliza Donoghue".

Eliza Donoghue, Esq.
Director of Advocacy