



TOWN OF ORRINGTON
1 Municipal Way
Orrington, Maine 04474

Regarding: L.D. 2077

An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Dean L. Bennett and I am the Economic Development Director for the Town of Orrington. I have worked for municipal governments for over 40 years. For the last 25 years, I have been directly involved in facilitating development and advocating for economic investment in Maine communities. The availability of natural gas is one of the very few assets Maine communities potentially have in their toolbox for economic development. Natural gas is sought as an alternative to oil and electric reliance. It's availability and affordability are vital to the sustainability of economic development in the State of Maine.

Any legislation, the unintended consequences of which, deprives industry, commerce or residents of alternative choices, will prove detrimental by handicapping development efforts of Maine communities, while creating additional road blocks and obstacles to doing business in Maine.

It is evident that L.D. 2077 will negatively affect economic development opportunity by increasing the cost of natural gas; restricting expansion of gas infrastructure; and eliminating one of the few alternative fuel choices.

On the environmental side, L.D. 2077 will restrict Maine's ability to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions; and reduce the ability of Maine industry, commerce and residential development to meet its needs for safe, reliable, and affordable energy, while reducing carbon emissions.

The Maine Senate and House of Representatives may want to address carbon emissions, however, sacrificing economic development opportunity with the unintended consequences of L.D. 2077, is in my view, irresponsible and detrimental to development advocacy.

Respectfully,
Dean L. Bennett