

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and members of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

My name is Nathan Davis, and I live in Rockland. I testify in favor of LD 2077, An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas.

Persuasive arguments for this legislation from the perspectives of climate and health are legion, and you will read and hear such arguments from others. From the utilities and their supporters, you will read and hear objections regarding consumer choice, costs, and the supposedly clean process of burning gas fracked from poisoned and despoiled earth.

But mostly, I suspect that you will hear - largely in private - protestations from an industry deeply entwined with the Maine political establishment, an industry accustomed to support from those in power, on whom it lavishes attention and support. You all serve the people and future of Maine, not the interests of private utilities, and you all know this. I think it likely that a majority of you also know that building new fossil fuel infrastructure is inimical to a healthy and prosperous such future; indeed, it is difficult to fathom a worldview that could observe the evidence that surrounds us and envelops our world and conclude otherwise.

Please, please resist the entreaties of those whose livelihoods, careers, and profits depend on the expansion of fracked gas in Maine. As Upton Sinclair famously wrote, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something, when his salary depends on his not understanding it."

Sincerely,  
Nathan Davis  
Rockland