

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

My name is Corliss Davis and I am a resident of Belfast, writing on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN). I am testifying in favor of LD 2077 because I believe that, like other fossil fuels, natural gas is an outdated heating source with significant financial and environmental risks to current users.

We have been heating and cooling our two-story home in Belfast almost exclusively with two heat pumps since 2013. Despite turning on the back-up oil furnace for one or two days during exceptional cold spells, we have bought no additional heating oil since that year. As you all know well, over 100,000 heat pumps have been installed in Maine and the numbers are only increasing.

Why should we, then, subsidize an outdated and actually dangerous fuel like fracked natural gas? Not only is methane far more of a contributor to our warming climate than carbon dioxide, but it has serious indoor risks to Maine homeowners using it for cooking and heating.

Considering the strong move towards more electrification in Maine and the geological challenges to installing new natural gas lines here, it seems especially unfair to burden current natural gas users with the costs of maintaining a dying system.

For all these reasons and to further support Maine's strong and admirable efforts to slow the growing damages caused by climate change, I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD2077.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Corliss C. Davis,  
Belfast  
MUUSAN