

Nancy B Chandler
Topsham
LD 2077

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

My name is Nancy B Chandler, and I am a resident of Topsham. I am testifying in favor of LD 2077 because Maine must reduce its use of methane, the main ingredient of natural gas, as much as possible to meet its climate goals. It is no longer acceptable to use methane as a "bridge" fuel until Maine achieves its renewable energy goals due to methane's huge climate warming action. Reducing methane use is essential for Maine to lower its greenhouse gas emissions and meet its 80% reduction goal from 1990 for climate emissions by 2050.

My family has practiced minimizing our use of all fossil fuels since 1981 when we built a house heated only with wood and both passive and active solar heat. I write about energy issues for the Times Record, have taught classes on weatherization, and weatherized low income senior's houses in Phippsburg after retiring. My Recycle Bin columns teach the midcoast Maine community about ways to reduce their greenhouse gases and use state and federal rebates and tax breaks to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and save money in heating and cooling their houses, in their purchases, and in transportation.

No new gas lines should be built in Maine, since they will become stranded assets as the 8% of existing houses with gas lines switch to cheaper and safer renewable energy supplies for space and water heating, and cooling.

Without this bill in the near future, Maine's diminishing number of gas customers would be stuck with rising costs to maintain the infrastructure. LD 2077 will also protect current and provide fairness to new customers by requiring shareholders, who profit from gas companies expanding infrastructure, to pay for it.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote 'ought to pass' on LD 2077.