

Valerie Watson
Old Town
LD 2261

Hello,

My name is Val Watson, and I am writing to testify against LD 2261. I am 27 years old. I think about climate every day, because the current rate of climate change scares the daylights out of me. I see the storms we got this winter and the horrible damage they did. I know the worry I feel when my father, a Vietnam veteran, can't go outside for much of the summer because air pollution and wildfire smoke is unsafe for his scarred lungs. I try not to think too much about how much worse it will be in 40 or 50 years, when I am his age. What world will I live in?

I say all this because it is absolutely imperative we do our part to stop emitting greenhouse gases, and the best way for Maine to do so is by adopting clean vehicle standards. Transportation accounts for nearly half of our state's emissions, and clean energy standards have the power to reduce that number dramatically. This bill in particular unjustly undermines a year-long, thoughtful, nonpartisan public health and environmental policy-making process to establish such standards, one in which thousands of Mainers have made their voices heard. Mainers support clean vehicle standards, and I do, too. For our health, and for our future.