

Testimony of Jon Reisman Neither for Nor Against

LD 499 An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering and

LD 825 An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering, Including the Use of Cloud Seeding, Weather Modification, Excessive Radio Waves and Microwave Radiation

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, members of the Environment and Natural Resources committee:

My name is Jon Reisman. I am a University of Maine at Machias emeritus professor of economics and public policy, where I taught environmental policy for more than thirty years, including geoengineering. I am testifying neither for nor against because while I believe that while there is good reason to be wary of the ecological, political and economic risks associated with geoengineering, there are also reasons based on Maine's Climate Action Plan, 2024 update, and the potential threat to Maine's shellfisheries from decreasing ocean alkalinity to not foreclose the geoengineering option.

Specifically, Maine's Climate Action Plan and 2024 Update maintain that the costs of doing nothing are unacceptably high. Advocates have argued for expensive energy policies to address a climate emergency and the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition away from fossil fuels. If adverse climate change effects are an existential or near existential threat, geoengineering should not be taken off the table.

I am also specifically concerned that decreasing ocean alkalinity poses a potential existential threat to Maine's shellfish industries. Particularly in areas like Machias Bay, geoengineering may have to be a part of sustaining shellfisheries.

I urge the Committee to amend these bills to allow for a reasoned consideration of the potential risks and rewards associated with geoengineering, and how Maine's climate policy should address this technology.

I would be happy to answer any questions at jreisman@maine.edu.