

To: Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology
From: Jackson Chadwick, Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2025



RE: Testimony in support of L.D. 946: “Resolve, to Increase Access to Energy Efficiency Programs by Low-income and Moderate-income Residents”

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

My name is Jackson Chadwick, and I am the Advocacy Director for Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ). We advocate for a just transition from fossil fuels towards a more sustainable future where Maine youth and young adults can prosper. Our organization is 500+ members strong, consisting of high school and college students, environmental activists, rural leaders, and young adults entering and contributing to the Maine workforce.

On behalf of MYCJ, I’m testifying in support of L.D. 946, which would expand access to energy efficiency programs for low and moderate-income Mainers.

“Climate justice” emphasizes the unequal effects of climate change on historically marginalized or vulnerable groups.¹ These often include rural and low-income communities, as well as populations residing in environmentally hazardous or (for example) flood-prone areas. In Maine, this comprises some of our coastal and waterfront communities, inland riverfront towns, and rural farmlands.

Maine Youth for Climate Justice supports policies that help at-risk populations benefit from climate adaptation initiatives and energy efficiency programs. Because some communities are the most vulnerable, their access to programs and services (such as through Efficiency Maine) should be prioritized.

The State of Maine has made progress in helping low-to-moderate-income households access energy efficiency programs, but there is room for improvement. Amending the rules to allocate half of Efficiency Maine’s annual funds for electric vehicle rebates and other energy efficiency programs to low-income and moderate-income households is crucial for ensuring that more Maine communities benefit from the clean energy transition.

Maine Youth for Climate Justice respectfully asks you to vote “ought to pass” on L.D. 946.

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: “Climate Change and the Health of Socially Vulnerable People.”
<https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-and-health-socially-vulnerable-people>

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Sincerely,



Jackson Chadwick
Advocacy & Organizing Director
Maine Youth for Climate Justice

