

Celeste Carey  
Newcastle  
LD 1262

To Maine Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Celeste Carey  
Newcastle, Maine  
April 6, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of L.D. 1262, An Act to Improve Government  
Transparency and  
Accountability by Establishing a Process to Allow a Person to Require the State to  
Enforce Certain  
Laws and Rules

Senate Chair Carney, House Chair Kuhn, and members of the Judiciary Committee,  
I am Celeste Carey of Newcastle, Maine, and I am so gladdened to be able to support  
this bill presented by Representative Friedmann and co-sponsored by Representatives:  
Macias, Osher, Pugh, Ray, and Sayre. It is appropriate at this time to establish a  
process for a person to require the State to enforce environmental laws and rules.

Our environmental protections are under attack now as they were in the prior Trump  
administration. An example of these environmental threats include the  
implementation of BOEM leasing sites for off-shore gas and oil drilling and  
exploration. In 2018 Maine Representative Mick Devin got a unanimous Resolution  
passed to request that Maine be excluded from new off-shore drilling. Several of us  
Mainers wrote individually to BOEM as well, citing the problems of rising  
temperatures in the Gulf of Maine, the presence of the endangered North Atlantic  
right whale, the lack of Maine infrastructure to support the industry, the loosening of  
BOEM regulations, and the negative impacts on our tourist economy. Devin also  
noted, "Nobody comes to our coast to eat a chicken sandwich."

In 2019, Representative Mick Devin sponsored a bill, "An Act To Prohibit Offshore  
Oil and Natural Gas Drilling and Exploration," which was enacted, protecting the  
State's resources as best we could.

Last month - in March, 2025 - Trump signed a joint resolution, S.J.Res.11,  
disapproving of BOEM's rule titled "Protection of Marine Archaeological Resources."  
Trump, also, directed in Executive Order 14192, "Unleashing Prosperity Through  
Deregulation." Then Interior Secretary's Order 3421, "Unleashing Prosperity  
Through Deregulation" further directed the Department to undertake actions to reduce  
regulations in the energy sector.

As noted by Hannah Perls, an environmental law expert with Harvard's  
Environmental and Energy Law Program (EELP), the EPA is being altered, and not  
for the better. She under-scored in her published paper for the Vermont Law Review,  
Spring 2021, Deconstructing Environmental Deregulation Under The Trump  
Administration, the removal of academic, scientific experts for industry-affiliated  
scientists on scientific advisory committees. All seven members of the Clean Air  
Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) were replaced between 2017 and 2018, by a  
selection process more political than appearing to follow EPA's Federal Advisory  
Committee Handbook. An ozone review panel did not convene. EPA scientific  
advisory meetings, once transparent and democratic, were held behind closed doors.  
Perls considered these added up to "procedural burdens to discourage affected  
communities from rightfully challenging agency decisions."

If enacted, LD 1262 could help us protect our State and affordably let a person, a  
Mainer, respond to harmful environmental conditions, providing us with one more  
line of legal defense than we have now.

Thank you for considering my testimony. - Celeste Carey, Newcastle