

Testimony of Jon Reisman in opposition of LD 1494,

Resolve, Directing the Office of Procurement Services to Study Adapting the Procurement Process to the State Climate Action Plan

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, members of the State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Jon Reisman. I am a University of Maine at Machias emeritus professor of economics and public policy. I am also a Cooper Selectman. I am testifying in fervent opposition to LD 1494, which is advertised as an effort for better and more effective governance, but is in fact a prescription for more corrupt, politicized, wasteful and ultimately ineffective climate policy.

This committee should absolutely NOT respond to recent state audit revelations of numerous serious material weaknesses in Maine's procurement processes by giving even more money and authority to an agency and administration that is either incompetent, corrupt or both.

The Climate Action Plan LD 1494 seeks to procure for also has serious material weaknesses. It makes a major commitment to equity, but fails to define equity, as admitted by the Governor's legal counsel. Promoting an undefined policy goal is pure policy malpractice. Worse, the Climate Plan somehow developed metrics for the undefined policy goal. Combining the material weaknesses of the climate plan with the State's impaired procurement processes is a prescription for green graft, graft and climate policy ineffectiveness and failure.

In 2017 in the 128th legislature I had LD 771, An Act To Protect Political Speech and Prevent Climate Change Policy Profiling, introduced in response to then Attorney General Mills threatening my political speech with her climate litigation and subpoenas against several think tanks I was associated with. Because I feared that a Gov. Mills would likely favor climate alarmists she agreed with over uppity climate holocaust deniers, LD 771 also prohibited the State from favoring or disfavoring any person based on the person's climate change policy preferences with regard to grants, contracts or employment. LD 1494 seeks to ensure certain climate policy preferences are handsomely rewarded. Please vote ought not to pass.

I would be happy to answer any questions.