

Heather Keast  
South Portland  
LD 1870

Climate-driven storms are costing Mainers billions of dollars. Last winter's climate change driven storms caused \$90 million in damage to public infrastructure and untold more to private property. While an estimate of the full costs of adapting to climate change does not currently exist, we know that Maine communities do not have the resources necessary to keep people and property safe from the worst of the climate crisis.

Fossil fuel companies caused climate change, they should pay for us to adapt to it. In 2023—the hottest year on record so far—oil companies took near-record profits, with the largest raking in over \$170 billion. This law will help Maine determine the true cost of dealing with climate change and require this trillion dollar industry to pay for climate adaptation projects that help Maine communities deal with the damage they've caused.

The "make polluters pay" principle is time-tested. This bill is modeled after the original Superfund law, which has withstood legal challenges unscathed for decades. Maine would join national leaders championing this innovative policy, building on bipartisan legislation successfully enacted in Vermont and New York.