

Tom Mikulka
Cape Elizabeth
LD 1870

To: Maine Legislative Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Tom Mikulka, Ph.D., CIH (ret)

Date: May 3, 2025

Subject: Testimony in support of LD 1870

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I am writing in support of LD1870 as an environmental scientist and former member of the South Portland Clean Air Advisory Committee.

Climate Change can no longer be denied. All evidence indicates that it is not just increasing but that it is accelerating. NOAA published a report in 2023 showing that this has lead to an acceleration of the number of billion dollar weather events in the USA , <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/>. While most of the damage has been in the southern and western states, Maine and Vermont have not escaped. The economy of the entire nation is now at risk. A recent peer reviewed report indicates that it is highly probable that if we continue on our present path the climate will reach tipping points where the damage will be irreversible and will spiral out of control ,<https://esd.copernicus.org/articles/16/565/2025/>.

The guilty party in this crisis is the fossil fuel industry that understood the damage burning their product would do long before most of us were aware of the threat. The situation is directly analogous to the tobacco industry. The evidence was clear that they understood the health risks of smoking their product but instead promoted smoking as a beneficial, pleasant experience until they were sued and made to pay for the damages.

LD 1870 will add Maine to the growing number of states like New York, California and Vermont who are demanding that the fossil fuel industry pay for their contribution to climate change. Failure to pass LD 1870 will leave Maine taxpayers holding the bag and will only encourage the industry to continue with its destructive behavior. For the sake of my two grandchildren and yours, we need to begin the transition to green energy NOW.

I urge you to pass LD 1870.