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LD 1870

I am writing to show my support for the Act LD 1870. There are a few points I would like the legislature to seriously consider before voting on this Act.

Our planet is an amazing environment that has allowed life to prosper & thrive. As with any intricate system, each part plays a crucial role in the success of the whole. It has been proven time & time again that the biodiversity of our planet is what provides it's success. The impact of human development on our planet has been devastating to the basic workings of our environment & biodiversity. We have two paths in front of us. Either ignore the damage we are inflicting in the name of profit over everything & eventually cause our own extinction or use the amazing ingenuity of humans to heal, support & nurture our planet's biodiversity to the benefit of all life on Earth.

We all agree that humans need energy to support our way of life. Just as most humans don't need to know how our various machineries are built & work to use & benefit from them, it doesn't matter how we produce our energy as long as we have it to use. As long as the lights come on or our car drives, most people don't care what powers them. The only people who are demanding our energy only comes from fossil fuels are the fossil fuel companies.

These companies have known for decades that drilling, refining & burning fossil fuels is destroying our planet & have willfully & intentionally worked to hide this knowledge from the public. The United States has always believed in justice & holding individuals & businesses alike accountable for the harms they have caused. Why should fossil fuel companies be any different? In fact, these companies have caused trillions of dollars of damage in the U.S. alone. Both in how they source their product & the effects of burning them. Instead of investing in clean energy production, which would have kept them at the forefront of technology & protected their enormous profits, these companies choose to use their money & influence to hide the damage they are creating & bribe govt officials to protect their industry.

Holding fossil fuel companies responsible for the damage they have caused is the only way to effectively push them towards cleaner & healthier processes for a cleaner & healthier society & environment. These companies are so large & influential, the only way to force them to change is through govt intervention.

Regardless of what you believe around climate change, there is no denying our climate is warming, our storms are getting stronger & happening more often, droughts & floods are lasting longer & glaciers are melting. Humans have the knowledge & ability to protect ourselves & all life by reducing carbon emissions, shoring up our infrastructure & switching to cleaner energy & the products we use. The only thing we are lacking is the willingness by govts around the world to invest this future. Holding these companies financially responsible will provide the funding we need to make these changes without denying them their profits, just will be smaller profits. Currently in the U.S. we are already unable to respond correctly to storms, floods, fires & droughts. It is only going to get worse if we don't change. It is just more logical to fund a cleaner & more sustainable future for all of us.

In conclusion, I sincerely hope you will vote yes to holding these companies responsible for their blatant deception, just as you would hold any other individual or organization responsible. I also implore Maine's govt to invest & support clean energy transitions. It will be several decades before we totally divest in fossil fuels & investing in this change now only makes smart financial sense. I would love to see Maine be at the forefront of clean energy. This would create jobs, business investment, resilience & prosperity for all of Maine's residents, humans, animals & plants alike.

Thank you.