

Sally Melcher-McKeagney
Fairfield
LD 1870

Testimony Template:

Testimony of Sally Melcher-McKeagney,

Supporting: LD 1870, An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters

May 4, 2025

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Sally Melcher-McKeagney, and I am from Fairfield. I am here today in support of LD 1870, An Act to Establish an Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters.

I live in rural Fairfield Center. I am a retired nurse. I spend a lot of time outdoors, walking, kayaking, paddleboarding and swimming. I also garden and my husband and I spend time keeping up our property, which is both woods and fields. In the winter, I cross country ski and snowshoe. I love walking in our woods in the winter.

In 2023, the life of our property changed. We lost about 10 trees, mostly in the woods, but also in our fields and along the roadside. Though it was December, the temperature was unseasonably high. It was raining instead of snowing. A very large silver maple was felled by the wind and the rain, leaving a big hole in the ground which was filled with water. Our power lines came off the house, and the transformer was damaged, causing many people on our street to lose their power for 5-6 days. People were stopping in front of our house to take pictures of the tree, as it was the largest downed tree in the area. We had to pay thousands of dollars for repairs and replacements, though our insurance covered a little, and so did FEMA--though I understand FEMA will not be as active as it used to be.

In addition, our seasons are far different from the seasons we had when I was growing up in Moscow, Maine. Our little ski area, Baker Mountain is one of the oldest ski areas in Maine. It has no snowmaking equipment, and with the loss of reliable snow, the pride of the Bingham-Moscow area is uncertain. This is sad for so many people who live there, and for those of us who have fond memories of skiing there all winter long.

Between the problems in inland Maine and the problems of coastal Maine, we are going to need LD 1870. For these reasons, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1870. The taxpayers of Maine should not be responsible for the consequences of climate change caused by the oil companies.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1870. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sally Melcher-McKeagney
Fairfield, Maine