

Elaine Fitzgerald  
JAY  
LD 1870

May 04, 2025

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Elaine Fitzgerald and I am from the town of Jay, Maine in Franklin County. I am contacting you to urge your support of LD 1870.

I am a retired educator who served my county for 38 years. I continue to support our Maine children and educators by serving on the Board of Directors of RSU 73. My husband and I have been home owners and residents of Jay, Maine since 1980.

In the extreme weather events causing massive flooding in our town in the past 2 years we, along with at least 4 neighbors, experienced water in our basements, some up to 12 inches resulting in thousands of dollars damage. We do not live in a flood plain. Multiple roads within and leading to our community lost critical travel roads (Rte. 4, Rte 133, Rte 156) in areas never flooded before. Area recreational trails were completely decimated and required complete reconstruction. The repairs to roads, basements and trails were not completely covered by FEMA funding leaving local taxpayers to foot the bill. My husband and I assisted an elderly Jay citizen move over 100 wheel barrels loaded with rock, mud and debris that flowed through the entire width of her property next to Rte. 4. The MDOT determined it was not their responsibility. Our district vehicles charged with transporting students to school had to reroute for months. Emergency vehicles lost precious minutes responding to our citizens.

Those who have contributed to these climate changes should be held responsible for easing the financial burdens created for our citizens, towns and state. The proven damage to our environment through the continued use of fossil fuels makes those responsible accountable. This bill seeks to bring remedy to that situation. With the encouragement of our present federal executive branch, these companies are being urged to utilize coal far more than in the past. This spells climate and financial disaster for our state and its citizens.

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

Elaine Fitzgerald  
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Jay, Maine