

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: William Weber, Portland Climate Action Team

Date: May 4, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 1870: An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Bill Weber and I am testifying on behalf of the Portland Climate Action Team (PCAT).

Last March the Weber family participated in the 42nd annual celebration of Maine Maple Sunday. Over the last three decades we have taken part in most of those celebrations. I have many happy memories, especially when my four-year-old, Chip, spilled a bucket of sap on himself. I hope those celebrations (well maybe not the sap spilling) can continue for generations to come. But it is becoming more difficult and costly to produce the same results. Climate change is affecting the yield of this tasty treat.

When we started visiting sugar houses back in the 90's you could get 1 gallon of syrup from about forty gallons of sap. Today, due to climate change the [sugar content in the sap is lower](#) and it takes about 60 gallons for the same one gallon (1). Shorter seasons that start earlier every year because of the warmer winters have been observed and documented by the [North American Maple Syrup Council](#) (2). Stressors to sugar maples that lead to death such as prolonged drought and invasive pests are also a result of a changing climate.

The industry has, however, been very resilient in the face of the warmer seasons. The improved production is the result of more advanced farming techniques like vacuum tubing and keeping the tap holes clean. Advanced technology like reverse osmosis to concentrate the sap, cost extra money to employ and jack up the cost of the amber gold. Unfortunately, technology will only be able to take us so far and production is likely to dwindle in the coming decades.

The Portland Climate Action Team (PCAT) is a volunteer organization of about 100 Portland citizens dedicated to directly combatting climate change in Portland and the great state of Maine. Our mission statement is below. Although many of us live and work in Portland we know our lives are enriched, wonderfully so, from the abundant natural resources of our home state. The passing of LD 1870 will help us preserve that bounty for future generations of Mainers. We implore you to stand up for Maine's beauty, its heritage and the great people of the State and vote "Ought to Pass."

Thank you.

William Weber, PE retired

Portland Climate Action Team

- (1) Long-term effects of warmer climate in Maine may waiver maple syrup seasons, News Center Maine, Caroline LeCour, February 21, 2023.
- (2) Climate Change and Maple, Maple Research Org, Timothy D. Perkins, April 11, 2018.



Portland Climate Action Team

portlandclimateaction@gmail.com

