

TO: Committee on the Environment and Natural  
Resources

FROM: Marianne Hill, Ph.D.

DATE: May 4, 2025

SUBJECT: Testimony in support of LD 1870

**LD 1870 -An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to  
Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters**

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Committee:

The consequences of global warming are affecting Maine along with the rest of the world. These consequences include: \* damaging storms (bringing rising insurance rates and demanding costly adaptations to seawalls, housing, ports and more); \* warmer winter temperatures (reducing the season for skiing and other winter recreational activities); \* an increase in invasive species, with growing tick populations and threats to native species; and \* hotter summers (bringing a rising need for air-conditioning). These climate-related damages are caused by the rise in greenhouse gas emissions in earth's atmosphere linked to human activities fueled by oil and gas.

Stopping climate change can seem like an overwhelming task. After all, what can Maine do? The answer, in short, is: Maine can inspire and Maine can lead many others towards solutions. These solutions are largely known. Number one: no more net greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2050.

Too bad that the current Administration seems hell-bent on increasing those GHG in our atmosphere and frying our planet. This bill might be a small step towards getting fossil fuel companies to rethink their priorities.

Requiring fossil fuel companies to help pay for the cost of remediating the harm done to the state is more than reasonable. The profits of the largest were over \$170 billion in 2023 alone. The formula Maine is proposing for

determining the fee to be charged these polluters is a fair one. The revenue will help Maine and not only that - the establishment of a Superfund here will encourage other states to take similar steps to protect themselves. The Superfund fee may also to some extent discourage fossil fuel companies from expanding their production of more fossil fuel and encourage them to turn towards the provision of clean energy and the equipment needed for its production and distribution.

Let us join Vermont and New York, who have passed bills similar to LD 1870, and other states where this effort is in progress. I urge you to vote “ought to pass”.

Sincerely,

Marianne Hill, Ph.D.  
Economist  
South Portland

Marianne Hill  
South Portland  
LD 1870

The threat of climate change can be overwhelming. But Maine can be a leader in advancing solutions. These solutions are largely known. Number one: no more net greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2050.

Too bad that the current Administration seems hell-bent on increasing those GHG in our atmosphere and frying our planet. This bill might be a small step towards getting fossil fuel companies to rethink their priorities. And will certainly unite folks around an idea whose time has come.