

To: The Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
Re: LD 1870 **An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters**

Date: 5/5/25

From: Becky Layton Bartovics

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Gramlich and members of the ENR

I am writing to you in favor of LD 1870. I live on North Haven island in Penobscot Bay. I wear many hats: small farmer, North Haven elected Budget Committee, volunteer legislative advocate, water protector, renewable energy supporter, midden minder, sailor, birdwatcher, fossil free home owner, mother and most importantly grandmother to five children ten and under. My farm is designed to promote improved biodiversity and hence I use no pesticides, practice rotational grazing, plant native species, use no till and have spent countless hours remediating the small forested area that is being overtaken by invasives which are the result of the changing climate.

This island has been severely impacted by the changing climate. Sea level rise and increased wind events have caused serious coastal erosion, undercutting banks and bluffs everywhere. Salt intrusion is now threatening our fresh water supply, causing the town to expend significantly to avoid that devastation from occurring as storm surge and sea level rise increase. The 6000 year old shell middens on the Turner Farm, the best known on the island, have been badly eroded by increasingly greater storm events coming from the southeast. In the five years we have been measuring them, the edge of the midden has receded at least eight feet of a six foot high bluff that extends a hundred of feet.

Our downtown received serious damage to all waterfront homes and businesses last year in the three storm events. Brown's boatyard where my son has worked for 15 years was devastated. They still are in recovery mode. Sea level rise is evident at every tide, not just on the king tides when the ferry parking lot and the boatyard are flooded.

As a farmer the unpredictability of the weather has become legion. We used to say, "if you don't like the weather in Maine, wait a minute." We had no idea the kind of drastic swings of drought and flood we would be attending to. It is extremely difficult to grow food, to raise grass for livestock, to address forest decline, spruce dying, invasive species overtaking woods and fields. And to do so in a sustainable way,

My farm uses very little in the way of fossil fuels in that we use no till gardening, hand broad fork the garden, compost our waste and that of the island brewery and restaurant and fertilize with that compost. Solar on the farm and Fox Island Electric provide mostly renewable energy for the house and farm. No fossil fuel are used in the house.

However I try, I am not able to offset the tremendous damage that the fossil fuel industry has visited, knowingly, upon the town and island community, on the planet

They have put livelihoods at risk, cost countless expenditures to remediate damage. And, they have known for decades that this was happening. They have advocated in every legislature across the country for untrammelled free rein to continue to devastate the planet and rake in obscene amounts of profit to boot. This SuperFund legislation will go some the the distance towards making amends It is time they are held accountable for the excessive damage they are causing. Way past time actually.

I urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1870.

Respectfully submitted, Becky Layton Bartovics