

Susan Payne  
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LD 1870

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

I am a resident of Cape Elizabeth. I am submitting this testimony to urge you to support L.D. 1870, Climate Superfund Bill.

I believe that this bill represents one of the most important steps we can take to protect our homes, streets, water supply, transportation, and environment. Recently, Governor Mills announced that the state will offer a “record” \$8 million in climate resiliency grants to Maine communities. This shows the costs of climate-related damage that have already occurred and are expected to occur in the near future. It is only fair to make the fossil fuel companies, which have produced the green house gases that are causing climate-related storms and warming, to help pay these costs.

When I and my fellow climate activists talk with people about climate change and how to protect ourselves from its effects, everyone understands that “making the polluters pay” is fair. There is only so much we as individuals do to adapt to and prevent climate change. We desperately need action at the level that only government can undertake.

I got involved in climate activism because I care about the environment and nature. At first it was because I want my children to enjoy the natural world as I have, and to have a sustainable world to live in. Now that I have grand children, my time horizon is extended to another generation. I sincerely hope that this bill will pass, to help us assure a better tomorrow -- a safer and more livable world -- for those who follow us.