

Janis Balda  
Thorndike  
LD 1870

Dear Legislators,

Living in Maine is both wonderful and difficult. Many of its difficulties come from inequities and inequalities among our residents that create hardships for the most vulnerable – typically the youngest and the oldest. Likewise small businesses – often the lifeblood of rural towns – survive by making creative and sometimes difficult choices about what bills to pay and what people it can afford to hire. These people particularly are impacted by climate-driven storms costing Mainers billions of dollars. Our communities do not have the resources necessary to keep people and property safe from the worst of the climate crisis.

Too often the state is blitzed by outsiders or large corporations who benefit from the natural resources, the beauty and the opportunities presented without paying their fair share toward supporting and caring for those resources and those communities (typically the very ones they take photographs of and capitalize on). We worry about how resilient our local communities can actually be and how they will adapt as they encounter more weather-related impacts they are not prepared to address.

L.D. 1879, An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters addresses these issues with regard to large scale fossil fuel companies which we know have caused climate change. In 2024 - the hottest year on record so far and part of an increasing year-to year trend - oil companies took near-record profits, with the largest making over \$170 billion. This law will help Maine determine the true cost of dealing with a changing climate and require this trillion-dollar industry to pay for climate adaptation projects that help Maine communities address the damage the industry caused.

The "make polluters pay" principle is time-tested. The Maine bill is modeled after the original Superfund law, which has withstood legal challenges unscathed for decades. Maine would join national leaders championing this innovative policy, building on bipartisan legislation successfully enacted in Vermont and New York.

Please ensure that you help protect what we all value about living and thriving in Maine.

Janis and Wes Balda  
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