



# Testimony of Dr. Daniel Oppenheim

On behalf of the Alliance of Maine Health Professionals for Climate Action

Supporting: LD 1870, An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters

May 2, 2025

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Dr. Daniel Oppenheim, and I am testifying on behalf of the Alliance of Maine Health Professionals for Climate Action, which I co-chair, I am here today to express my strong support for LD 1870.

As a physician and public health advocate, I have dedicated much of my career to addressing the health consequences of environmental exposures, including those driven by climate change. Here in Maine, we are already experiencing the harmful effects of a warming climate on our health. From increased rates of asthma and respiratory illness triggered by longer pollen seasons and wildfire smoke, to the rise of tick-borne diseases like Lyme and anaplasmosis, the human cost of climate change is undeniable. Our rural communities, low-income families, and elderly residents are among those most vulnerable to these compounding health threats. In recent years, we've seen firsthand the damage caused by extreme weather—flooded homes in riverfront towns, power outages during heat waves, and strained emergency departments during winter storms that are growing more unpredictable. At the same time, energy costs continue to rise, making it even more difficult for Maine families to stay safe and healthy in the face of climate disruption. These consequences aren't accidental—they are the direct result of decades of pollution by fossil fuel companies, many of which knew the risks and chose profit over public safety.

LD 1870 provides a just and pragmatic path forward. By requiring the largest corporate polluters to pay their fair share for the damage they've caused, Maine can fund the urgent infrastructure, health, and adaptation measures our communities need to survive and thrive in a changing climate. The Climate Superfund model reflects the principle that those who cause harm should be responsible for repairing it. This legislation is not just about economics—it's about fairness, public health, and protecting future generations from preventable suffering.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1870. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Daniel Oppenheim, MD  
Co-chair, Alliance of Maine Health Professionals for Climate Action