

Elizabeth Trehu
Vienna
LD 1870

I am writing to urge you to pass LD 1870, An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters. I live in Vienna, ME, where I am a member of the Roads and Culverts committee. Vienna is the smallest town in Kennebec county, with a population of 578 in the 2020 census, and a median household income of \$36,985.00. We cannot afford the increased costs of maintaining our roads, which are being ravaged by climate change driven storms. The sum of all road-related items in our annual budget is over \$300,000.00. Four roads have repeatedly had major wash-outs, which resulted in people being stranded without access to passable roads. The estimated cost to implement long-term repairs to these four roads is \$1.85 million. We are in the process of applying for grants to fund these repairs, but they all require significant matching funds from the town, which will be very difficult if not impossible to raise. The fossil fuel companies who charge us high prices for fuel to heat our homes and have profits in the billions of dollars are the major cause of our current climate crisis and should pay for the consequences.