

Craig Patton
Portland
LD 1870

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

I am writing in support of L.D. 1870, the single most important piece of legislation this year, in my view. This bill, the Climate Superfund Bill, recognizes the existential threat that climate change poses to our planet and asks the primary polluters to pay for the damage.

My own story? I am the child of an Exxon executive who got his start at an oil refinery in New Jersey, then built a plastics plant in Denmark and an artificial fertilizer plant in Holland. Dad was proud of his work, and I honestly don't think he knew what grievous harm the fossil fuel products were having on this precious planet that he loved so dearly. I have committed a considerable portion of my time in retirement to raising awareness about our dangerously warming planet and supporting actions from demonstrations that may make a difference.

I am a co-faciliator of Third Act Maine, a group of over 1,200 elders in Maine who care deeply about our environment and are organized to raise awareness, urge policy changes, and model sustainable living for future generations.

We know that climate-driven storms are destructive and expensive to remediate. We know that fossil fuel companies are to blame. They have deliberately lied about the harms of fossil fuel emissions for decades.

The simple solution, to "make polluters pay," makes sense to even young children. The fossil fuel companies have reaped outsized profits. They should be held to account. And there is precedence for this bill, from the Superfund law of 1980.

Because there is no "Planet B," because this precious planet is the only one we have, I urge passage of Maine's Climate Superfund.

Sincerely,
Craig Patton
Portland, Maine