

Jayden Colby
Norway
LD 1870

Testimony of Jayden Colby

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

May 5, 2025

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Jayden Colby, and I am from Norway. I am here today in support of LD 1870, An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters.

Something that causes me great anger is knowing that our country has been aware of the devastating impacts of climate change for the last 60 years. Unfortunately, stakeholders have continuously deemed our planet as unworthy of protecting and in that time immense damage has been caused to our climate, most notably by large companies, who were aware of the damage that they would cause, and chose to do so anyways, unaccountable for their actions. Everyday our planet grows warmer, and everyday I worry about how our world could soon be uninhabitable. While that worry is heavy, I find great hope knowing that this planet can be saved. Trying is certainly worth a shot.

I wasn't around 60 years ago, or 50, or 40, or 30, to take any action to protect a planet I had yet to inhabit. But I am here now.

In a recent book group, I learned about producer responsibility, the concept of redirecting the burden of those hurting the climate, away from the consumers - us regular people, many of whom make conscious daily choices to protect the planet - and shifts the blame to large corporations, those responsible for the most significant damage to our climate. This concept is a game changer, here I am worried about straws and my trash and my vehicle, which is great - but who we need to be holding accountable are those who contribute the most carbon into our environment. Specifically for this bill, we're talking about regulating companies that contributed over one billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Here I am today, worried about the two and a half gallons of gas it would take to get to Augusta, meanwhile the companies that would be affected by this bill have knowingly contributed the equivalent of over 112 billion gallons of gas, each!

I think that makes it clear why large corporations should be held responsible! We regulate corporations for so many things - killing our planet should certainly be one of them.

That brings us to LD 1870, an excellent solution that holds the largest fossil fuel companies responsible for the damage they caused to our environment, knowingly. I'll still be here, a conscious Maine taxpayer, choosing reusable options, carpooling, and composting, but there is no reason why I should be the one footing the bill for their harmful decision.

So here we are, 60 years later, with the chance to get this right. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1870. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jayden Colby
Norway, ME