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Testimony of Rep. Sean Faircloth in support of

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

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, I am Sean Faircloth and I represent House District 24, which includes parts of Bangor, Orono, Brewer and all of Veazie. I come to you today in strong support of **LD 1870, An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters**.

Climate change is one of the largest issues facing humanity. It threatens our way of life at almost every level. It is also one of our most expensive issues. A 2021 report from the Governor's Office on Policy Innovation and the Future estimates that sea level rise alone is expected to cause \$17.5 billion in coastal damage in Maine by 2050, and that is only scratching the surface.

As we think about scalable funding for addressing such a widespread issue, I'm drawn to solutions that center accountability. We must ask ourselves: Who caused this crisis? So far, Maine taxpayers are footing the bill for our climate adaptation and resiliency efforts. This will need to change to match the scale of the damage we're fighting.

LD 1870 offers us an amazing opportunity. Companies like Exxon Mobile, Chevron and BP are not often directly relevant to our work here in Augusta, but LD 1870 offers us a rare chance to hold the big oil and gas companies accountable for the huge levels of pollution they have produced in Maine.

By creating the Maine Climate Superfund, LD 1870 would create a mechanism for identifying those corporations most responsible for the damage caused to Maine by climate change from 1995 to 2024 and would send demands for payment to those companies based on the proportion of the damage they are responsible for.

Our work to address the effects of climate change is critical and it is highly local. During my time as mayor of Bangor, I was a strong local advocate for climate and energy issues, where I pushed to create local rebates for energy efficiency. The truth is that climate adaptation work is incredibly diverse. Repairing roads and widening culverts, weatherizing our homes, electrifying our communities and supporting businesses impacted by climate change are all examples of

climate adaptation managed at the local level. Just last week, Bangor was awarded \$75,000 for improving mobility and evaluating efficiency of municipal buildings.

But the truth is, without a major infusion of funding like what is being offered in LD 1870, our communities will continue to adapt slowly and the health and safety of Maine people will pay the price.

It is time for major oil and gas companies to pay their fair share, ease the burden on Maine taxpayers and help us build a more resilient future together.

Thank you, and I'd be happy to answer any questions.