

Nola Prevost
Brewer
LD 1870

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

My name is Nola Prevost, and I'm a Maine Master Naturalist from Brewer. I'm writing in resounding support for LD 1870, because even in my short lifetime of 25 years, I have already seen the effects of the climate crisis in my home state, and I think the ones you pollute the most should pay the most in recovery costs.

Growing up in Kennebunk originally, I remember having to tuck my halloween costumes into snow boots and jackets just to go trick-or-treating, but even though I probably complained about it as a child, I knew that snow in October was just to be expected. Nowadays, there's barely enough snow for kids to build a snowman by Christmas. Last year my neighbor's yard was so flooded by rain that it actually cut off power to most of their lawn ornaments and festive lights - and we can only chalk it up to a miracle that saved them from a worse fate, like a live wire being exposed to all that water, or a short circuit leaving them without electricity indefinitely. No one should have to be afraid of unseasonal weather ruining their holidays.

But that's why I am compelled to support a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program here, to help save hard-working Maine people from having to pay for climate damages, as it's clear from the science that they will continue for decades to come. One thing I particularly like about LD1870 is that at least 35% of funds must benefit environmental justice communities, who are often hit hardest by climate impacts. That's coming from someone who honestly wouldn't even qualify as living in such a community, I just think that those who suffer the most should receive the most assistance as appropriate. The bill also targets past pollution, not current pollution, which means gas prices and other such expenses will not increase. It's targeting the pollution that is actively causing our current climate disasters, with room to grow in the future as our climate needs evolve. Because everyday working Americans are not the cause of these climate disasters, and we shouldn't have to pay for them like we are. Because polluters have known for decades what their emissions were doing to our environment and actively tried to hide it. Now, it's only right for them to pay up for the damage they've caused. That is, in some ways, the epitome of environmental justice.

Your support for this bill could mean more ecological AND economical freedom to all of Maine's residents, and the precedent that this would set would mean more financial security for the state as a whole. That's why I encourage you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1870.

Thank you very much

Nola