

Jacob Roche  
Berwick / Union of Concerned Scientists  
LD 1870

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

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

My name is Jacob Roche and I live in Berwick, Maine. I am the Northeast Campaign Manager for the Climate and Energy Program with the Union of Concerned Scientists. The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science into action, developing solutions and advocating for a healthy, safe, and just future. 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.

The overwhelming scientific evidence confirms that the fossil fuel industry has long understood the catastrophic consequences of burning coal, oil, and gas, yet knowingly misled the public and policymakers to protect their profits at the expense of communities and ecosystems across Maine and beyond.

For decades, major fossil fuel companies have evaded responsibility for the harms caused by their products—despite knowing the devastating consequences of continued fossil fuel use. Rather than accepting responsibility or contributing to climate solutions, these companies actively misled the public, obstructed policy, and delayed action. In light of this persistent refusal to be held accountable, legislation like the Maine Climate Superfund is not only justified—it's necessary. By establishing strict liability based on the scale of emissions, this bill ensures that those most responsible finally contribute to the recovery and resilience Maine communities urgently need. It reflects the strength of the scientific evidence and the failure of voluntary or good-faith industry action.

The people of Maine are already experiencing the consequences of a warming climate. Rising sea levels, intensifying and more frequent storms, and shifting ecosystems threaten our fisheries, forests, and capacity to continue leading dignified lives.

During January 2024, Maine faced storms that caused over \$90 million in damage to our public infrastructure! Coastal communities face increasing risks from flooding, erosion, and saltwater intrusion into limited groundwater reserves, while inland regions contend with extreme weather events and warming winters that disrupt the structure and function of our collective livelihoods. These impacts are not abstract future concerns - they are happening now and disproportionately burden those least responsible for the crisis.

The Union of Concerned Scientists is asking this committee to stand up for the people of Maine and to seek accountability from companies that have knowingly endangered our environment, public health, and lives. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on LD 1870. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jacob Roche  
Northeast Campaign Manager  
Climate and Energy Program  
Union of Concerned Scientists