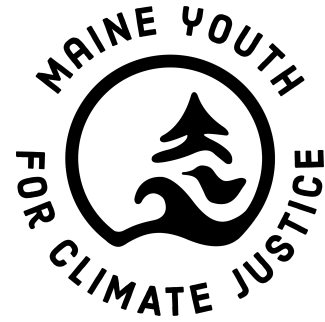


To: Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology  
From: Kaelin Ferland, Maine Youth for Climate Justice  
Date: Tuesday, May 6, 2025



RE: Testimony in support of L.D. 1868: “An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws”

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Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs, and members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, my name is Kaelin Ferland. I am the Outreach Coordinator at Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ), a statewide coalition of more than 500 youth advocating for a more sustainable, just, and livable future.

I’m advocating today for L.D. 1868. This legislation will lower energy costs and make energy more accessible. Maine’s use of fossil fuels as our primary energy source is causing energy prices to soar. However, clean energy is quickly becoming cheaper and more affordable for consumers. Transitioning to 100% clean energy by 2040 would lower energy costs by \$1,300 annually for the average Maine household.<sup>1</sup>

Maine has the potential to become a major clean energy producer in the country, and already has made great progress in establishing clean energy jobs and infrastructure. By sourcing our energy from within the state instead of relying on external fossil fuels, energy will become cheaper, and consumers will have more options.

Clean energy is a huge employer in our state. Currently, more than 15,000 Mainers<sup>2</sup> are working in the clean energy industry, an industry that, in 2022, contributed a total of \$2.31 billion to Maine’s economy.<sup>3</sup> These numbers will only increase through a 100% clean energy transition.

L.D. 1868 would create a cleaner, more sustainable future by minimizing our dependence on fossil fuels, which drive climate change. According to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, the Gulf of Maine is one of the fastest-warming bodies of water on the planet.<sup>4</sup> Additionally, in winter 2023, Maine experienced some of its worst, most damaging storms in history, which devastated Maine’s coastal communities. If we continue to rely on fossil fuels, these climate disasters will become more frequent, severe, and damaging, and reparations will be more costly.

For these reasons, Maine Youth for Climate Justice urges you to vote in support of L.D. 1868. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> [Maine Pathways to 2040](#), page 41

<sup>2</sup> [Maine Clean Energy Industry Report \(2023\)](#), page 2

<sup>3</sup> [Maine Clean Energy Industry Report \(2023\)](#), page 5

<sup>4</sup> [Gulf of Maine Research Institute](#)