

Testimony in Support of LD 1870: An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters

Jan. 13, 2026

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Gramlich, and Members of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee,

Please accept this written testimony in support of LD 1870 *An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters*. I understand the work session is scheduled for Wed., January 14th.

I'm aware that this bill is flagged as a priority by the Environmental Priorities Coalition (representing 40 nonprofits statewide) and that 100+ people/organizations testified in support of the bill at the public hearing -- so I won't belabor the benefits of the proposal and how they outweigh potential legal challenges. I believe you've heard that report from many, including respected lawyers thoroughly familiar with the parallels of this proposal to the still-viable federal superfund for hazardous waste pollution.

I am writing to share that on Oct. 8, 2025, the Bath City Council passed a resolution in support of legislative action to establish a climate superfund. The resolution was presented by Bath's Climate Action Commission, and was successfully passed by the Council with a vote of six in favor, one opposed, and one abstaining. That resolution is enclosed.

Establishing a Climate Superfund has great potential to benefit the people and communities of Maine by 1) providing much-needed financial assistance for climate adaptation (especially considering the federal government's decrease in funding, and its inclination to link grant eligibility to ICE collaboration), and 2) holding large corporations that spent years obstructing the clean energy transition accountable for environmental and infrastructure damage resulting from decades of continued greenhouse gas emissions.

While I serve on Bath's City Council, this testimony is my own and is not a representation of the full Council. The resolution, however, is.

Thank you for your service to our state and I hope you will support LD 1870.

Sincerely,
Jean Guzzetti

Jean M. Guzzetti (she/her)
Councilor, City of Bath, Ward 2
J.D. Candidate, Energy and Environmental Law Fellow
University of Maine School of Law
(207) 705-7305

cc: Roo Dunn, Chair, Bath City Council
John Zittel, Co-Chair Bath Climate Action Commission
Paul Perkins, Co-Chair Bath Climate Action Commission
Councilor Mansfield-Pryor, Bath Climate Action Commission
Rod Melanson, Sustainability and Environmental Director, City of Bath

**CITY OF BATH**

Date: 10/08/2025

Supporting the Creation of a Maine Climate Superfund

WHEREAS climate change and the resulting storms are costing Mainers billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS 2023-24 winter storms caused \$90 million in damage to public infrastructure and untold more to private property; and

WHEREAS climate change is already shifting storm patterns in Maine in ways that will continue to severely damage public and private infrastructure; and

WHEREAS expensive fuels continue to strain working families' budgets; and

WHEREAS in the face of environmental and economic crises for Maine people, international oil companies continue to take in near-record profits year after year; and

WHEREAS declining municipal revenues cannot keep people and property safe from the worst impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS the world's largest fossil fuel corporations should contribute significantly to local communities to fix the damage they've caused; and

WHEREAS a Maine Climate Superfund will help Maine determine the true cost of dealing with climate change and make polluters to pay for the climate damage they caused; and

WHEREAS under such a program, the state will produce a detailed report of the financial impact of fossil fuel-related climate pollution, then identify the largest emitters responsible for that pollution and recover costs in proportion to their share of emissions; and

WHEREAS payments from those large oil and gas corporations, instead of taxpayer dollars, will be used to finance projects that can protect Maine people, businesses, and property from the devastating impacts of climate change and help our communities adapt to new environmental realities; and

WHEREAS the original Superfund program and its "make polluters pay" principle has withstood challenges for decades and can be easily applied to the environmental damage caused by climate change; and

WHEREAS Maine would join national leaders championing this innovative policy, building on bipartisan legislation successfully enacted in Vermont and New York last year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by City Council of Bath as follows:

THAT City Council of Bath strongly urges the Maine Legislature and Governor to pass legislation to create a Maine Climate Superfund, to protect Maine communities and ensure the largest fossil fuel companies pay their fair share for climate-related damage.

CITY OF BATH, MAINE

In City Council

October 8 2025

Date Received, Read, and Accepted

☐ tabled ☐ granted ☒ passed ☐ failed

Attest:

City Clerk

6-1-1