

To: Joint Standing Committee on Environment & Natural Resources
From: Jackson Chadwick, Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Date: Wednesday, January 21, 2026



RE: Testimony in Support of L.D. 2037: "An Act to Update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowances"

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, and members of the Committee on Environment & Natural Resources,

Good afternoon. My name is Jackson Chadwick, and I represent Maine Youth for Climate Justice (MYCJ) as their Advocacy & Organizing Director, and am a resident of Bangor. MYCJ empowers youth under 30 to champion climate action and justice through legislative advocacy, community organizing, and educational initiatives. Our members include high school and college students, as well as young adults entering and supporting Maine's diverse workforce.

I am testifying today in support of L.D. 2037: An Act to Update the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Allowances (RGGI).

RGGI is a crucial, multistate initiative to limit carbon emissions from polluting power plants. Under the program, polluters pay for every ton of pollution released into our atmosphere. In Fiscal Year 2024, investments from RGGI funds were projected to result in annual savings of nearly 16,530 tons of carbon dioxide.¹ That is equivalent to greenhouse gas emissions avoided by recycling 5,241 tons of waste instead of landfilling it, or the amount of carbon dioxide that 14,878 acres of forests sequester in a year.²

In addition to the benefits this program brings to our climate, RGGI has even more tangible economic benefits here at home in Maine. A significant portion of RGGI funding in Maine goes to the Efficiency Maine Trust to support energy efficiency programs, including heat pump and home weatherization programs that assist many low- to moderate-income households.

If Maine is left out of the RGGI program, millions of dollars in funding will not be available to support these programs - programs which many young Mainers are increasingly participating in. Additionally, as federal incentives for home electrification and energy efficiency projects expire, it underscores the urgency for Maine to remain part of RGGI.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackson Chadwick", is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Jackson Chadwick
Advocacy & Organizing Director
Maine Youth for Climate Justice
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¹ Page 71, FY 2025 Annual Report, Efficiency Maine Trust. <https://www.efficiencymaine.com/docs/FY2025-Annual-Report.pdf>

² Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator, Environmental Protection Agency.
<https://www.epa.gov/energy/greenhouse-gas-equivalencies-calculator>