

Emily Carty
Brunswick
LD 2070

Dear Environment and Natural Resources Committee,

My name is Emily Carty, and I am a resident of Brunswick, Maine. I am writing to voice my support for LD2070 'An Act to Prohibit Landfill Expansion into Wetlands'.

Maine's wetlands provide essential habitat for numerous plant and animal species within the state, including many keystone and rare species. Wetland species have intrinsic value as living beings, but also have ecological and economic value. The latter is particularly true in Maine, where millions of dollars are spent each year by tourists who visit our state to recreate outdoors and observe wild animals and plants.

Not only are wetland ecosystems hot spots for biodiversity, they are also key to fighting climate change! Wetlands act as carbon sinks, capturing carbon which would otherwise contribute to global warming. In Maine, the effects of rapid global climate change are being felt in the form of destructive storms, crop-killing drought, and an increase in tick-borne illnesses. Given the devastating and costly impacts of climate change, it would be irrational and irresponsible for the State of Maine to allow for the destruction of carbon-storing wetlands.

While I understand that waste management is important, it should not come at the expense of the ecosystems which provide countless benefits to the people of Maine. For this reason, I strongly support LD2070, which will prevent wetlands from being destroyed for landfill expansion.