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Testimony of Representative Vicki Doudera presenting
LD 1775, An Act to Establish a Clean Hydrogen Pilot Program
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Good day Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utility and Technology. My name is Vicki Doudera and I represent House District 41, the towns of Camden and Rockport. I am before you today to introduce **LD 1775, An Act to Establish a Clean Hydrogen Pilot Program**.

Hydrogen is a clean fuel that, when consumed in a fuel cell, produces only water. It can be produced from a variety of domestic resources, such as natural gas, nuclear power, biomass, and renewable power like solar and wind. You will hear a rainbow of designations attached to this fuel – “green,” “blue,” “turquoise,” or even black or brown. These colorful adjectives relate to how cleanly and sustainably the hydrogen is produced.

My interest in this subject is firmly rooted in this fuel’s potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, thereby combating the effects of climate change. Hydrogen is not a replacement for the good work we are doing in other types of renewable energy such as solar and wind, but it can help our state meet our climate goals in sectors that are particularly hard to decarbonize. The Sierra Club notes that, “Green hydrogen has the potential to help store intermittent renewable energy; be converted to a “zero-emissions” fuel for maritime shipping and aviation; be used in high-heat industrial processes that cannot otherwise be electrified; or, be used as a feedstock in some industrial processes, like steel production.”¹

The key to whether hydrogen energy will truly help Maine work toward our climate goals will depend on how it is produced, managed and used. That’s why it is so critical to get the details of LD 1775, directing the Public Utilities Commission to develop and oversee a pilot program to produce clean hydrogen – right. The last thing any of us wants is to jeopardize the progress we have made.

¹ <https://www.sierraclub.org/articles/2022/01/hydrogen-future-clean-energy-or-false-solution>

As you may already know, Rep. Gerry Runte has extensive professional experience with hydrogen energy and hydrogen production technologies. As a cosponsor of this bill, he has spoken with stakeholders on every side of the issue, and studied the emissions, target production, funding and the bill's definitions. Rep. Runte said to me recently that he was willing to dig into the particulars of this bill's text and get important questions answered because "getting this market going is too important to the future." I agree. (I also suggest that you save your questions for your resident hydrogen expert and listen closely to his suggestions for improving this bill.)

Recently we marked the occasion of Patriot's Day. As in April of 1775, when American colonists led the way to our country's independence from Britain, let us use LD 1775 to combat our planet's biggest threat. We have already invested time and resources to get to this point, and our state is ready. Let's work to fine tune LD 1775 to ensure that clean hydrogen is an integral part of Maine's green energy revolution.

Rep. Vicki Doudera