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Testimony of Representative S. Paige Zeigler introducing
LD 2077, An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas
Before the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee

Good afternoon, Senator Lawrence and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. My name is Paige Zeigler, and I represent House District 40 consisting of the towns of Appleton, Islesboro, Liberty, Lincolnville, Montville, Morrill and Searsmont. I am here today to introduce **LD 2077, An Act Regarding Customer Costs and the Environmental and Health Effects of Natural Gas**.

This bill's language was presented to me by William Harwood from the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA). The bill is two parts, the first part dealing within the scope of the Public Utility Commission and the second part within the scope of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Harwood's bill would like the PUC to investigate the impacts of future consumption of gas on rates and greenhouse gas emissions. The bill would also have the PUC look at expansion of gas lines and prohibit promotional allowances to new customers. Added to what the PUC is investigating, the OPA would like to add geothermal energy. In both cases, the bill asks the PUC to present the results to our committee by Nov. 6, 2024.

The second part of Mr. Harwood's bill is asking the Department of Health and Human Services to investigate indoor air quality and health impacts of using gas in homes and commercial buildings and leakage and to report their findings by November 6, 2024.

Where I am introducing this bill on behalf of Mr. Harwood, I ask that you hold your questions for him and those who are here today to speak to this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention.