

Members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, thank you for your service, and thank you for listening to me today. My name is Ben Lounsbury, and I am a retired doctor from Auburn. I hold degrees in physical sciences and medicine. I heard about LD 2077 from PSR Maine, Physicians for Social Responsibility. When I received their email, I quickly said I would testify in favor of LD 2077 because this is an issue about which I feel very strongly.

The Earth could be turned into a hot and steamy planet like Venus if we do not stop pulling carbon out of the earth and putting it into the air. Nobody in their right mind is denying this relationship any more. True, we need *transitional* forms of energy to get us into the future where net emissions will be zero. Natural gas is a pretty good transitional energy source, but ***expanding*** the gas pipeline system and locking more customers into natural gas usage for half a century is ridiculous. Burning natural gas in homes is one of the first energy usages that we ought to stop!

I feel sorry for the energy companies. They need to go out of business. If they are smart, they will branch out into renewable energy businesses. A couple of years ago, before my family switched from a propane stove to an electric stove, our propane company sent out a questionnaire about their service. I told them their service was fantastic. And I told them I hoped they would apply their work ethic and creativity to a renewable type of energy, because the world needs people like them working to set up renewable energy networks not involving natural gas, propane, or oil.

Please vote that LD 2077 ought to pass.

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