

Testimony of Jon Reisman in support of LD 495

An Act to Require Rules Designed to Reduce Climate Change to Include Estimates of the Reduction in Adverse Climate Effects and of the Cost to Consumers

Senator Tepler, Representative Doudera, members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee: My name is Jon Reisman. I am a University of Maine at Machias emeritus professor of economics and public policy and a Cooper Selectman. In 1995 I worked for Governor Angus King and Maine implementing the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments and getting rid of car-testing. Leader Faulkingham submitted LD 495 at my request – it is an effort to make Maine climate and energy policy more transparent, assessable, efficient, equitable and effective.

LD 495 requires the DEP, when promulgating Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reductions (as our Climate Action Plan requires), to issue an estimate based on sound science of the amount of adverse climate change averted and at what cost to consumers in terms of energy prices. The infusion of transparency and a clearly defined and assessable policy goal (averting adverse climate change) will dramatically improve climate change policy consensus and effectiveness.

In 2005, the late Rep. Henry Joy introduced very similar legislation (LD 72) for me. Had it passed, Maine could have had a bi-partisan and effective climate change policy, but it was not to be. I urge you to vote ought to pass and move Maine towards an honest, transparent, assessable, efficient, equitable and effective climate change policy, which is much overdue and sorely needed.

I would be happy to answer any questions.