

Supporting LD 1870, An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters

May 5, 2025

Dear Senator Tepler, Representative Gramlich, and esteemed members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources,

My name is Christian Ricci, and I live in Yarmouth. I was raised in southern Oxford County, where I witnessed firsthand how devastating severe weather can be to a community, especially for small businesses and working families.

In August 2009¹, just a few miles from my elementary school, a violent storm flattened Young's Greenhouse in South Paris, a beloved local business and staple of the community. This incident wasn't just another news story; it was a stark lesson in vulnerability and loss, impacting local jobs, community resources, and family livelihoods.

The frequency and severity of these storms have increased dramatically since then. LD 1870's Climate Superfund is a critical step toward holding accountable those most responsible for climate change. It ensures that the costs of recovery and resilience are borne by fossil fuel companies whose enormous profits have come at the direct expense of communities like mine.

There is no question that the weather will continue to cause increased destruction because of the pollutants humans have put into our environment. The only question remaining is who will pay for the damage.

This bill is fair, targeted, and necessary. It will direct funding into climate adaptation projects, providing direct relief and long-term resilience to communities most affected by climate change, especially those in rural areas similar to where I grew up.

I respectfully urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 1870, to ensure that the cost of climate destruction is not unfairly placed on the people of Maine, but rather on those who have profited most from causing it.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Warm regards,

Christian Ricci
Yarmouth

¹ <https://www.sunjournal.com/2009/08/22/storm-hammers-region-paris-greenhouse-business-flattened/>