



www.thirdact.org/maine

Senator Lawrence, Representative Sachs and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology,

I am here today representing Third Act Maine, a statewide group of over 1,200 Maine elders committed to protecting our climate and democracy. Our members are represented in every county in Maine, with organizational hubs in Farmington, Waterville, Belfast, Damariscotta and Portland. Third Act was founded in 2021 by the environmentalist Bill McKibbin of Vermont, and has grown into a national community of Americans over the age of sixty working to change the world for the better by transitioning to a renewable energy economy.

I am speaking in support of LD 1868, which sets a path for achieving Maine's goal of reaching 100% clean energy by 2040. It will stabilize energy costs, create new energy jobs, and further the necessary transition away from burning fossil fuels for energy. Currently, Maine sends more than \$4 billion out of state yearly to import oil and gas to produce our energy. It would be better spent on purchasing clean energy, mostly produced in Maine, at stable and lower costs to the consumer. In reaching 100% clean electricity by 2040, we could lower average household energy costs by about \$1,300 per year and build a homegrown green energy economy by creating new jobs in local clean energy industries.

The Maine Climate Council has done a great job of studying the problem of runaway climate change and what can be done in Maine to deal with this. But we need to do much more than just plan and talk about it. We have to take action, and we have to do it now if we want to save our grandchildren from dealing with a much worse climate situation. This bill targets a goal that would greatly help Maine's future, and there is enough time before 2040 for us to take action. The bill identifies the office that would be responsible for taking action, and it describes a mechanism to do this. Money invested now in a smart way will reap significant savings in the future. And we will be able to look our grandchildren in the eye and say that we took action to make life better for them.

Some legislators will say that we cannot afford to invest this money now because we have to give Maine taxpayers relief instead. It is important that we do not approach this issue in an either/or manner. Minimizing Maine's tax burden and protecting the world for our children are both important issues. We need to find a balance. The world's best

scientists tell us we are still on track to cause climate change extreme enough to endanger the survivability of human civilization as we know it. It would be irresponsible to put off taking the necessary steps to safeguard our families' future. This bill describes a mechanism to ensure that the money that Maine invests in clean energy is not excessive and that it is strategic. It is designed to have a good payoff in both the short-term and the long-term.

One of Third Act Maine's overarching goals is to support youth and to consider how our actions today affect the future for our children and grandchildren, and generations to come. The passage of LD 1868 will provide the pathway to reliable, cheaper electrical energy for Maine while helping to insure a liveable planet for future generations.

On behalf of Third Act Maine, I respectfully ask you to vote Ought to Pass.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fahy', written over the printed name.

Deborah Fahy

Environmental Priorities Coalition Representative
Third Act Maine