



Senator Stacy Brenner
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1515
Stacy.Brenner@legislature.maine.gov

Testimony in favor of LD 142, “An Act to Fund Climate-related Service Work”

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee of Education and Cultural Affairs, I am Senator Stacy Brenner. I represent Senate District 30 which includes Gorham and most of Scarborough.

Last session, I was able to help pass [LD 722](#), Resolve to Study the Establishment of the Maine Climate Corps, which led to the establishment of the Maine Climate Corps Program as part of the Maine Commission for Community Service. The next step in the its growth and effectiveness is funding dedicated positions for individuals who will carry out this important program. In December of 2020, the Maine Climate Council released “[Maine Won’t Wait: A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action](#),” which outlined numerous strategies across multiple industries of ways to address climate change in the state. One of those strategies was to form the [Maine Climate Corps](#) in order to engage our communities through volunteering and service.

Addressing the climate crisis in our state requires a team effort. One of the best ways to implement these strategies is through community engagement and experience. Providing funding to create positions for the Maine Climate Corps would give the corps the freedom to be able to build these teams to help our beautiful state heal from climate crisis. Not only does this program directly impact our community in positive ways, it also reaches out to the youth in order to better prepare us for the future. This program provides an invaluable educational opportunity for students across several subject areas. By training its volunteers on-site and giving them a hands-on experience, students will build on their professional development while also providing acts of service for their community.

As a farmer, Chair of the Committee of Environment and Natural Resources, and a strong advocate in the effort to address the PFAS crisis, I have a firm understanding of the effectiveness of engaging the community in our work to mitigate climate change and build a green workforce. However, the only way to make this possible is through funding. Many of Maine’s industries rely on youth sparked with a passion for green jobs. Contributing to strategies to save our state from climate change is worth every penny.

I urge you to vote ‘ought to pass’ on LD 142. Thank you for your consideration.