

Celeste Carey
Newcastle

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Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, I am writing as a Maine citizen in support of L.D. 809, An Act to Prohibit the Purging of Volatile Organic Compound Gases from Oil Tankers in the Waters of Maine.

This legislation before you, presented by Senator Miramant and having many cosponsors, is the appropriate opportunity to take a shot across the bow of oil tankers in regards to their polluting practices. Our coastal environment's health and our species health require a better opportunity to thrive. We are currently taking steps to address our carbon footprint. We need to prevent and reduce our methane and nonmethane pollution, our VOCs. In addition to passing this bill, or at the very minimum, we should at least set daily purging limits in Maine coastal waters.

The enactment of this bill will set a legal precedent for Maine, declaring our intentions as new international and federal rules and regulations come to bear. We need to be ourselves, "Our Captains of the Port."

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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