



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Kyle R. Bailey to Present LD 1367 Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Sen. Brenner, Rep. Tucker and distinguished colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to present LD 1367, "An Act To Create a Grant Program To Promote Innovation in Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives."

Change comes from the bottom-up, not the top-down. To recover from the global pandemic and recession, respond to climate and addiction crises, reckon with centuries of injustice and ensure that we make our state an even better place to earn a living and raise a family, we must make smart and strategic investments and incentivize innovation at the local level.

Thanks to the leadership of Gov. Mills, Director Pingree and many others, Maine has a strategy to address the climate crisis that threatens our security and well-being. To ensure that we do our part and meet the goals outlined in the "Maine Can't Wait" report, the Legislature must act to align policies and budgets with priorities and create the infrastructure necessary to achieve our goals. LD 1367 would create a new tool—using carrots, and not sticks—for the state to support projects in local communities that will help Maine to reach our goals for carbon reduction.

I envision this starting out as a pilot project—a good place to begin this phase of our work—to incentivize necessary change while also unlocking the creative potential of the Maine people to develop community solutions to global problems. Imagine what we could learn from this work, the model we could develop over time to fight climate change and the opportunity we would have to lead in addressing this crisis from the ground up. Think about this program in year 5 or 7, scaled-up and wildly successful. Imagine the ripple effects from empowering Maine people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to tackle the climate crisis and how it might lead to bold fixes and better outcomes in our economy, education, health care, etc.

This program isn't about bureaucracy or blank checks, it's about strategic investments in the Maine people and in our future. I hope you will support LD 1367. Thank you for the opportunity to present this bill and for your consideration.