

To: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From Sarah Fitzpatrick

Date: April 23, 2021

Re: Testimony in Support of **L.D. 1367: An Act to Create a Grant Program to Promote Innovation in Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives**

Representative Brennan and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Sarah Fitzpatrick and I am a resident of North Yarmouth. I write today as a stay-at-home mom, environmental enthusiast, and lifelong Mainer. I voice my support and urge you to vote “Ought to Pass” for this legislation: LD 1367 An Act to Create a Grant Program To Promote Innovation in Municipal Carbon Reduction Initiatives.

A majority of Mainers consistently support climate action initiatives and investing in efficient renewable energies. [Eighty percent of Maine voters](#) recognize the importance of unifying state lawmakers when addressing climate change and clean energy. It only makes sense that LD 1367 should be passed to provide financial support to climate action projects throughout Maine communities.

Implementing a grant program, focused on reducing carbon emissions, enables each municipality to determine the project that will best fulfill the community’s climate goals. This act is a [catalyst for small municipalities](#) to promote climate action initiatives that might otherwise have to wait until their budgets can accommodate such ambitious projects.

The variety of carbon-reducing projects these grants could fund increases the potential [benefits](#) for each municipality. The grants funding energy-efficient technology can save both households and businesses money whilst promoting the public’s health in surrounding communities. The initial costs of these investments will be offset by the resulted savings. Investing in carbon-reducing infrastructure and renewable energy also presents a great opportunity for job creation. [Between April 2019 and April 2020 zero states experienced job growth.](#)

Representing 16.2% of Maine's workforce, 102,800 lost jobs, and the equivalent of nearly 5 billion in annual wages, Maine placed 12th for job loss during this time frame. These climate action initiatives have the potential to recover some of the jobs Maine lost due to the pandemic.

LD 1367 benefits the environment, Maine's citizens, and communities. This grant program will fund solutions to identified problems throughout Maine's communities.

Thank you Representative Bailey for presenting this legislation. I ask the Committee to vote ought-to-pass on LD 1367.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Fitzpatrick

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North Yarmouth

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