

Tom Berry
Kennebunk

I am writing to express my concerns about LD 1498, An Act To Prevent Increased Heating Fuel, Natural Gas, Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Pricing in Maine by Prohibiting Adoption of Rules Limiting Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

The exclusions contained in this bill suggest that the framers may have misconceptions about how a carbon-pricing measure that includes a dividend would actually work. If they are concerned that ordinary citizens would face a financial burden under such a law, they have not been adequately informed. To see how a "carbon fee and dividend" plan would function, I urge the authors of LD 1498 - and all members of the Legislature - to look into the extensively-researched "Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act" (HR 2307). They will find that a such a policy would financially benefit the vast majority of citizens, with the greatest benefit going to those in lower income brackets. (The benefit that most people would receive would more than cover any price rise that would result from the fees imposed on fossil fuel corporations.) It would also be the single most effective tool we would have in reducing carbon emissions which - as we all know - is critical to stave off the worst effects of the Climate Crisis that is already upon us.

Because LD 1498 would undercut the ability of the Legislature to effectively reduce carbon emissions, I urge all members to vote "No".

Thank you,