



Maine Conservation Voters

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Testimony of Maine Conservation Voters

In Opposition to 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

Before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee

May 3, 2021

Good morning Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Kathleen Meil, Director of Policy & Partnerships for Maine Conservation Voters.

MCV is a statewide environmental advocacy organization that represents more than 8500 members and supporters dedicated to protecting Maine's environment and our democracy by making conservation, climate, equity, and voting rights political priorities. We oppose LD 1498.

The climate crisis poses a direct and immediate threat to Maine's natural resources, public infrastructure, economic and social wellbeing, and very way of life. In response, our new four-year plan for climate action, [Maine Won't Wait](#), challenges us to slow the effects of climate change while also preparing Maine people, communities, and environment for climate-related harms to come. The plan is backed by comprehensive scientific and technical assessment about climate change in Maine; reflects the work of more than 200 Maine people with a diverse set of experiences and backgrounds; and is the result of months of study, discussion, and public deliberation to determine the the steps Maine must take to address the climate crisis. Its consensus recommendations put Maine on a trajectory to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, achieve carbon neutrality by 2045, grow our clean energy economy, and advance long-term prosperity for our state.

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*, proposes to redefine all rules implementing the Climate Action Plan as major substantive rulemakings, requiring redundant Legislative review and approval. This would directly contradict this committee's intent in explicitly defining the foundational rulemakings of climate action as routine technical. It would undermine the essential goals and statutory targets of the

Maine Climate Council, disregard the work of hundreds of Maine people, and reframe the state's commitment to climate action as "**Maine MUST Wait.**"

Given the urgency of the climate crisis and our statutory mandate to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it would be illogical to impose the obstacles to action presented by LD 1498. Maine Conservation Voters opposes this bill and urges you to vote ought not to pass.