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To: Senator Stacy Brenner, Chair  
Representative Ralph Tucker, Chair  
Committee on Environment and Natural Resources  
From: Becky Smith, Director of Government and Community Relations, Bsmith@mccs.me.edu  
Re: L.D. 1532, *An Act to Protect Maine's Air Quality by Strengthening Requirements for Air Emissions Licensing*  
Date: May 3, 2021

Please accept this testimony in opposition to L.D. 1532, *An Act to Protect Maine's Air Quality by Strengthening Requirements for Air Emissions Licensing*.

The Maine Community College System appreciates the interests and concerns underlying the intention of this bill. We work hard to ensure that our operations across the state are environmentally conscious and compliant. We understand and value our responsibilities to our students, employees, and neighbors.

This bill is reported to change the broad regulatory scheme applicable to a wide variety of entities out of concern for how one type of entity in a particular location is operating. This bill speaks to an issue requiring significant technical knowledge. Accordingly, we defer to the expertise of the Department of Environmental Protection in determining whether, and if so how, more narrowly tailored legislation in this subject is either necessary or advisable.

We are also concerned about the potential economic impact of this bill on our budget. Just last month the Legislature flat funded MCCS for the next biennium, leaving us to absorb millions in operational expenses, such as retirement and health insurance, that MCCS is required to pay but over which MCCS has no control.

For the reasons set forth above, MCCS defers to DEP and therefore respectfully requests that this Committee report this bill Ought Not to Pass.

Thank you for the courtesy of your consideration.