

To: Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: William Weber, MEng., retired

Date: April 28, 2021

Subject: Public Testimony Against 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.

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Good morning Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. I am William Weber, a longtime resident of Portland, Maine, and an Engineer with over 40 years of experience in waste management and pollution control. Working in both the public and private sector over that time I have come to realize that “man” is our own worst enemy. The shortsightedness of our actions in regard to the environment and the planet we inhabit puts all of us in danger.

Regarding climate change, as a result of human activities which release greenhouse gasses to the atmosphere, we are *literally* the frog in the boiling pot of water. Due to the gradual nature of the unfolding problem, we have lulled ourselves into complacency until its almost too late to act. Our reluctance to properly price fossil fuel products to include the true costs to our society will be an ever increasing burden on the next generation of Mainers who will be forced to deal with the impacts of climate change. If we don't act, much of what we love about Maine will be irreparably changed.

I reject the notion that we can't move towards a more sustainable future by instituting a carbon fee and dividend system similar to US House H.R. 2307 The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. The subject bill, LD 1498, is just a bad bill and ought not to pass.

Thank you.

