

May 5, 2021

Dear Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker, and the Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I write to ask that the Environment and Natural Resources Committee vote that LD 1572: Resolve, To Analyze the Impact of Sea Level Rise, ought to pass for the following reasons:

- **Seas are rising.** Scientists predict that Maine will experience at least 1.5 feet of sea level rise by 2050 and 3.9 feet by 2100. This will cause an increase in flooding, loss of critical coastal habitats and beaches, and destruction of coastal infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment plants, roads, culverts, and crossings.
 - **Flooding and storms are surging.** 1-foot of sea level rise alone is projected to result in a 15-fold increase in nuisance flooding, and climate change is expected to increase the frequency of "100-year" storms to occur once every 10 years.
 - **Coastal ecosystems will be disrupted.** 1.6-feet of sea level rise is anticipated to submerge 67% of Maine's coastal sand dunes, reduce our dry beaches by 42%, and devastate saltmarshes.
- **Economic consequences will be enormous.** 3.9-feet of sea level rise is estimated to cause over \$671 million in cumulative building losses and \$665 million in gross domestic losses in Maine. Economists hired by the Maine Climate Council predict that by 2050, Maine's coastline will sustain damages of up to \$17.5 billion if we do not adapt now.
- **Maine can't wait.** LD 1572 will enable us to make our communities resilient now before the worst impacts of sea level rise affect our coast.

Thank you for considering these critical issues.

Sincerely,

Dan Emery

