

Sarah Lyman
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Dear Senator Stacy Brenner, Representative Ralph Tucker, and the Distinguished Members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee:

I am writing 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 because we know the potential impacts if we don't:

- The expected 1.5 feet of sea level rise within just 30 years and 3.9 feet by 2100 will result increases in flooding, loss of coastal habitats and beaches, and inundation of coastal infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment plants, roads, culverts, and crossings along Maine's coast.

- If we were only to have 1-foot of sea level rise, the projected result is a 15-fold increase in flooding, yet as mentioned above, scientist are predicting much higher levels.

- If we were only to have 1.6-feet of sea level rise, it is predicted that would submerge 67% of Maine's coastal sand dunes, reduce our dry beaches by 42%, and devastate saltmarshes. All three of these ecosystems provide invaluable ecosystem services and economic benefits to our communities.

- Climate change is expected to increase the frequency of "100-year" storms to occur once every 10 years, we are not ready for those impacts on our coastal communities and the fishing, tourism, and port industries that support them.

- If/when we do reach the predicted 3.9-feet of sea level rise, it 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.'

The passing of this bill is essential for our future, including our safety, our culture, our economy and our Maine way of life.

Please support LD 1572.

Sincerely,
Sarah Lyman