

Susan Murr
Cousins Island, Yarmouth

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 to pass LD 1572: Resolve, To Analyze the Impact of Sea Level Rise. The reasons are compelling:

Seas are visibly rising and scientists predict Maine will experience at least 1.5 feet of sea level rise by 2050 and 3.9 feet by 2100. This rise will lead to Maine's coast experiencing increases in nuisance flooding, loss of coastal habitats and beaches, and inundation of coastal infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment plants, roads, culverts, and crossings.

Flooding and storms are demonstrably surging. A projected 1-foot of sea level rise alone can result in a 15-fold increase in nuisance flooding. Moreover, climate change is expected to increase the frequency of "100-year" storms to once every 10 years. These impacts will cause substantial disruptions for coastal communities such as mine on Cousins Island and the vital fishing, tourism, and port industries that support them.

Coastal ecosystems may drown. 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. All three of these ecosystems provide invaluable ecosystem services and economic benefits to our communities.

Economic consequences will be staggering. 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.

We can't wait, we must take action now before it is too late, to help save our beautiful coast for generations to come. An investment now will help prevent a catastrophe later. LD 1572 will enable us to make our communities resilient now before the worst impacts of sea level rise affect our coast.

Sincerely,
Susan J. Murr
Yarmouth, ME