



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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### *Testimony of Rep. Michelle Dunphy presenting*

## **LD 1429: An Act To Implement the Most Time-sensitive Recommendations of the Maine Climate Council**

### *Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources*

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and distinguished members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources: As you all know, in December 2020, the Maine Climate Council released their call to action. After fourteen months of expert research, thorough deliberations, valuable input from stakeholders across a wide array of Maine industries — along with the voices of thousands of concerned Mainers — the bipartisan Climate Council unanimously agreed upon a detailed plan to address the threat of climate change here in Maine.

Their report, “Maine Won’t Wait: A Four-year Plan for Climate Action,” outlines the specific actions that must be taken to address the greatest environmental threats facing our state. Thanks to the leadership of Governor Mills and the dedicated work of the Maine Climate Council, we now possess a roadmap for effectively addressing this issue. We have at last gained clarity over what needs to be done — and, without further delay, the time to act has arrived. Hannah Pingree and Melanie Loyzim, the co-chairs of the Climate Council, have explained how this plan’s consistent and bold action on climate “will create thriving new economic sectors . . . save money for Maine people, towns, schools and business . . . improve rural transportation systems and open access to food grown and harvested by our fellow Mainers.” LD 1429 takes the actions necessary to achieve these desired outcomes.

Because transportation is responsible for 54% of Maine’s greenhouse gas emissions, this bill helps accelerate Maine’s transition to electric vehicles, reduces the amount of vehicle miles traveled by investing in public transportation, promotes public commuting options and gives incentives to the freight industry to be more efficient.

Because heating, cooling and lighting our buildings is responsible for almost one-third of Maine’s greenhouse gas emissions, this bill provides ongoing funding to Efficiency Maine Trust

to ensure that we meet our goal of installing more heat pumps and doubling the current pace of home weatherization efforts.

Because climate change threatens the vital natural-resource sectors of Maine's economy — like forestry, farming and fishing — this bill creates the Maine Farm and Fish to School Program to increase the amount of food consumed in Maine schools that comes from state food producers, and it establishes the University of Maine as the coordinating hub for state-applied research and development of climate-friendly bio-based wood-market innovation.

Because we must protect our natural and working lands from the effects of climate change and development — and increase carbon sequestration efforts to achieve carbon neutrality — this bill provides funding to the Land for Maine's Future Board to leverage matching contributions from public and private sources to conserve critically important natural landscapes and ecosystems. I have attached a chart to this testimony that provides the committee with a reference of every section contained in this bill — alongside an explanation of how each provision directly mirrors a specific unanimous bi-partisan recommendation.

Of the over sixty recommendations made by the Climate Council, this bill addresses sixteen of the most time-sensitive action areas. What we achieve here today, during this legislative session, will ultimately determine whether we meet our 2025, 2030, 2045 and 2050 goals.

This is of course a global crisis. But we cannot wait any longer for others to act for us. We in Maine have the power to make a big difference. The rest of New England is watching what we do. The rest of the country is watching. And, perhaps most importantly of all, our children and grandchildren are watching. If we take bold action now, other states will soon follow in our footsteps and big shifts will begin to occur.

The Climate Council's Four-year Plan for Climate Action is a roadmap for how we can best navigate the challenges that lay ahead. The bill before you today, LD 1429, is our state taking tangible steps down the path that Maine's experts have unanimously outlined for us. Let us face the challenges ahead with renewed confidence — and let's have Maine continue to lead the way. If we do, others will surely follow.

Thank you — and I'd be happy to answer any questions.



**How LD 1429 mirrors the Maine Climate Council's Four-year Plan**

Action Area	Climate Council's Plan	LD 1429
<p align="center"><b>“Maine Won’t Wait: A Four-year Plan for Climate Action” Implementation Chart</b></p>	<p><b>Specific outcomes identified in Four-year Plan</b> (this language is taken directly from the Maine Climate Council’s Implementation Chart):</p>	<p><b>How LD 1429: An Act To Implement the Most Time-sensitive Recommendations of the Maine Climate Council achieves these outcomes</b> (this language is taken directly from the bill summary):</p>
<p><b>Strategy A: Embrace the Future of Transportation in Maine</b></p>		
<p><b>1. Accelerate Maine’s Transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs)</b></p>	<p>Achieve emissions-reduction goals by putting 41,000 light-duty EVs on the road in Maine by 2025 and 219,000 by 2030.</p>	<p>Provides \$1,500,000 in ongoing funds to the Electric Vehicle Accelerator Program; <i>(Sec. 15 of bill)</i></p>
<p><b>2. Increase fuel efficiency and alternative fuels</b></p>	<p>Significantly increase, by 2024, freight industry participation in EPA’s SmartWay program.</p>	<p>Creates a fuel efficiency tax credit for commercial businesses in the freight transportation supply chain that participate in the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s SmartWay program; <i>(Sec. 10)</i></p>
<p><b>3. Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)</b></p>	<p>Reduce light-duty vehicle miles traveled (VMT) over time, achieving 10% reductions by 2025, and 20% by 2030.</p>	<p>Provides \$400,000 per year funding to broadband infrastructure grant programs for expansion in rural areas; <i>(Sec. 15)</i></p>
	<p>Increase public transportation funding to the national median average of \$5 per capita by 2024.</p>	<p>Provides \$400,000 per year funding for expansion of public transportation options and building upon the programs established in the Department of Transportation’s 2019 transit plan in order to meet the Maine Climate Council’s recommendation that the State’s public transportation funding reach the national median of \$5 per capita by 2024; <i>(Sec. 15)</i></p>
	<p>Relaunch GO Maine to significantly increase shared public commuting options by 2022.</p>	<p>Provides \$225,000 per year to relaunch GO MAINE, a ride matching program administered by the Maine Turnpike Authority, in order to significantly increase shared public commuting options by 2022; <i>(Sec. 15)</i></p>

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<b>Strategy B: Modernize Maine's Buildings: Energy Efficient, Smart and Cost-Effective Homes and Businesses</b>		
<b>1. Transition to cleaner heating and cooling systems and efficient appliances</b>	Install at least 100,000 heat pumps in Maine by 2025; ensuring that by 2030, 130,000 homes are using between 1-2 heat pumps and an additional 115,000 homes are using a whole-home heat pump system. Install at least 15,000 new heat pumps in income-eligible households by 2025.	- Extends to fiscal year 2029-30 the funding from any forward capacity electricity market or other capacity payments from the regional transmission organization that may be used by the Efficiency Maine Trust to promote high-performance air source heat pump technology. Currently this funding ends fiscal year 2024-25; the bill extends the funding to fiscal year 2029-30; <i>(Sec. 8)</i>
<b>2. Accelerate efficiency improvements to existing buildings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Double the current pace of home weatherization so that at least 17,500 additional homes and businesses are weatherized by 2025, including at least 1,000 low-income units.</li> <li>- Weatherize at least 35,000 homes and businesses by 2030.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provides \$905,000 in ongoing funding to the heat pump rebate and incentive programs administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust; <i>(Sec. 15)</i></li> <li>Provides \$485,800 in ongoing funds to the current home and business weatherization rebate and incentive programs administered by the Efficiency Maine Trust; <i>(Sec. 15)</i></li> </ul>
<b>Strategy C: Reduce Carbon Emissions in Maine's Energy and Industrial Sectors through Clean Energy Innovation</b>		
<b>1. Ensure adequate affordable clean energy supply</b>	Achieve, by 2030, an electricity grid where 80% of Maine's usage comes from renewable generation.	Repeals provisions allowing the Public Utilities Commission to suspend scheduled increases in the renewable portfolio requirements when the commission makes certain findings about the requirements; <i>(Sec. 6-7)</i>
<b>Strategy D: Grow Maine's Clean Energy Economy and Protect Natural Resource Industries</b>		

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<p><b>1. Support the ability of Maine's natural resource economies to adapt to climate change impacts and take advantage of new market opportunities.</b></p>	<p>Establish the University of Maine as the coordinating hub for state applied research on forestry, agriculture, and natural land-related climate concerns, including research and development of climate-friendly bio-based wood market innovation, and research around climate-friendly agricultural practices.</p>	<p>Provides \$250,000 per year funding to establish the University of Maine System as the coordinating hub for innovation of new technologies that will support Maine industries as they transition into a new economy. Funds will support the ability of Maine's natural resource economies to adapt to climate change impacts and take advantage of new market opportunities in Maine's forest products industry by using the most up-to-date research on forestry, agriculture and natural land-related climate concerns, including research and development of climate-friendly bio-based wood market innovation and research around climate-friendly agricultural practices; <i>(Sec. 15)</i></p>
	<p>Increase the amount of food consumed in Maine from state food producers from 10% to 20% by 2025; and 30% by 2030 through local food system development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requires school administrative units over time to purchase increasing amounts of local Maine food; <i>(Sec. 2)</i></li> <li>- Establishes the Maine Farm and Fish to School Program to promote, market and facilitate the sale of food grown or raised and fish raised or caught by Maine food producers to elementary and secondary schools and postsecondary educational institutions; <i>(Sec. 3)</i></li> <li>- Expands the Local Produce Fund to include meat, fish, eggs and dairy products and changes its name to the Local Food Procurement Fund; <i>(Sec. 5)</i></li> <li>- Directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to determine how best to comply with the United States Child Nutrition WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Public Law 108-265, Section 204, adopted June 30, 2004 in implementing related requirements of the bill; <i>(Sec. 11)</i></li> </ul>

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	<p>Increase the amount of food consumed in Maine from state food producers from 10% to 20% by 2025; and 30% by 2030 through local food system development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Requires school administrative units over time to purchase increasing amounts of local Maine food; <i>(Sec. 2)</i></li> <li>- Establishes the Maine Farm and Fish to School Program to promote, market and facilitate the sale of food grown or raised and fish raised or caught by Maine food producers to elementary and secondary schools and postsecondary educational institutions; <i>(Sec. 3)</i></li> <li>- Expands the Local Produce Fund to include meat, fish, eggs and dairy products and changes its name to the Local Food Procurement Fund; <i>(Sec. 5)</i></li> <li>- Directs the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner of Health and Human Services to determine how best to comply with the United States Child Nutrition WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004, Public Law 108-265, Section 204, adopted June 30, 2004 in implementing related requirements of the bill; <i>(Sec. 11)</i></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Strategy E: Protect Maine's Environment and Working Lands and Waters, Promote Natural Climate Solutions and Increase Carbon Sequestration</b></p>		
<p><b>1. Protect natural and working lands and waters</b></p>	<p>Increase by 2030, the total acreage of conserved lands in the state to 30% through voluntary, focused purchases of land and working forest or farm conservation easements.</p>	<p>Provides \$7,500,000 per year funding to the Land for Maine's Future Board to leverage matching contributions from public and private sources to be used for the acquisition of land and interest in land for conservation; water access; wildlife or fish habitat including deer wintering areas; outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing; and working farmland preservation and working waterfront preservation; <i>(Sec. 15)</i></p>
<p><b>2. Develop new incentives to increase carbon storage</b></p>	<p>Maine Department of Environmental Protection will conduct a comprehensive, state-wide inventory of carbon stocks on land and in coastal areas (including blue carbon) by 2023 to provide baseline estimates for state carbon sequestration, allowing monitoring of sequestration over time to meet the state's carbon neutrality goal.</p>	<p>Requires the State to conduct a comprehensive, statewide inventory of the capacity of natural systems on land and in coastal and marine ecosystems to sequester or release carbon in a manner that will allow estimates of potential state carbon sequestration levels as well as changes in those levels over time and thereby allow the State to achieve carbon neutrality; <i>(Sec. 4)</i></p>
	<p>Establish by 2021, a stakeholder process to develop a voluntary, incentive-based forest carbon program (practice and/or inventory based) for woodland owners of 10 to 10,000 acres and forest practitioners.</p>	<p>Directs the Governor's Energy Office to develop a voluntary, incentive-based forest carbon program; <i>(Sec. 12)</i></p>
	<p>Update the Open Space Current Use Taxation Program and maintain the Tree Growth Tax Law.</p>	<p>Adds to the tree growth tax program a declaration that it is in the public interest to encourage the increased sequestration of carbon in this State; <i>(Sec. 9)</i></p>



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<p><b>3. Expand outreach to offer information, technical assistance</b></p>	<p>Increase technical service provider capacity by 2024 to deliver data, expert guidance, and support for climate solutions to communities, landowners, farmers, loggers, and foresters at the Department of ACF Maine Forest Service, Department of IF&amp;W, the Department of Marine Resources and the University of Maine.</p>	<p>Directs the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Forest Service, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Marine Resources and the University of Maine System to seek to increase their technical service capacity to deliver data, expert guidance and support to communities, landowners, farmers, loggers and foresters for activities that will support the State's climate goals; <i>(Sec. 13)</i></p>
<p><b>Strategy H: Engage with Maine People and Communities about Climate Impacts and Program Opportunities</b></p>		
<p><b>1. Raise awareness about climate change impacts and opportunities</b></p>	<p>Launch a multifaceted, ongoing communications effort in 2021 based on the Climate Action Plan to raise public awareness and understanding about climate change in Maine, the state's climate response actions, and climate-related programs and opportunities.</p>	<p>Directs the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to launch a multifaceted, ongoing communications effort based on the state climate action plan issued by the Maine Climate Council on December 1, 2020 to raise public awareness and understanding about climate change in Maine, the State's climate response actions and climate-related programs and opportunities; <i>(Sec. 14)</i></p>