



Senator Chloe Maxmin
Agriculture, Conservation and
Forestry Committee, Member
Marine Resources Committee, Member
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Cell (207) 200-6224
Chloe.Maxmin@legislature.maine.gov

April 6, 2021

Testimony of Sen. Chloe Maxmin introducing
LD 815, An Act To Support School Decarbonization
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and honorable members of the Energy Utilities, and Technology Committee:

My name is Chloe Maxmin. I represent Senate District 13, which includes all of Lincoln County except for Dresden, plus Washington and Windsor—a total of twenty-seven towns. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of LD 815, An Act To Support School Decarbonization.

LD 815 is a bill to update LD 1282, one of my bills that was passed last session. Subsequent changes to state and federal law prompted Efficiency Maine to reach out and ask for an improvement of this program. Efficiency Maine will be here today to talk more in depth about the need for this bill and what this legislation can provide.

Last session, I introduced legislation that included support for schools as they navigate the renewable energy landscape. I did this because I did not want our school budgets—and therefore our property tax payers—to bear the brunt of a changing energy economy. This is still an important service to provide our educational institutions, and so we are upgrading this idea.

LD 815 creates a program within Efficiency Maine that provides technical and financial support to schools that seek to go carbon neutral. These services include but are not limited to facilitating access to legal resources and energy audits to financial assistance as well as incentive programs for schools. This program comes at no costs to school districts.

This bill to me is an exciting opportunity to provide support to our school districts as they navigate a very complicated landscape. I know that we all hear about the property tax burden in our communities—especially rural communities like mine. This is a small way to support schools and therefore our taxpayers that will inevitably face the challenges of finding alternative and affordable energy sources. This to me is an example of a “just transition” that ensures that no community is disproportionately impacted by the evolving energy landscape.

I appreciate the Committee’s attention to this legislation. I am happy to answer any questions.

Sincerely,
Chloe Maxmin