



May 10, 2021

Dear Honorable Committee Chairs Senator Lawrence & Representative Berry and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee,

Because Maine has the highest per capita carbon emissions in New England, and because our economy is utterly dependent on the health of our environment, I submit this written testimony on behalf of ReVision Energy in favor of [LD 1682 - An Act To Require Consideration of Climate and Equity Impacts by the Public Utilities Commission.](#)

The Gulf of Maine, which supports our \$500 million lobster fishery as well as our \$7 billion tourism industry, is the second-fastest warming body of marine water on the planet. Simultaneously, acidification of the Gulf of Maine threatens our entire shellfish industry. Ocean warming and acidification result from carbon pollution, which over many decades has also already begun negatively impacting the health of our forests.

We are strongly in support of LD 1682 because it will require the Public Utilities Commission to consider climate damage, citizen equity and environmental justice when assessing the full costs and benefits of energy investments.

LD 1682 is attracting broad support throughout Maine because the bill prioritizes environmental sustainability for all citizens of the Dirigo State. **Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC)** is a partnership of 32 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides. LD 1682 is one of EPC's top environmental and climate bills for 2021. According to the [EPC Fact Sheet](#), "this bill would specifically add climate and equity to the PUC's responsibilities, empowering it to value emissions reductions and environmental justice in policy, programmatic, and regulatory decisions. Instead of choosing the cheapest solution in the moment, the PUC can be empowered to choose the best solution for both today and tomorrow's ratepayers."

It's worth noting that LD 1682 will promote economic sustainability for Maine because the bill will help the PUC make better decisions that benefit people's right to clean air, water and land, all of which are our most valuable natural assets. Protecting these assets will ensure that our natural resource-based economy stays strong and healthy for generations to come.

Sincerely,

*Phil Coupe*

Phil Coupe

Co-founder

