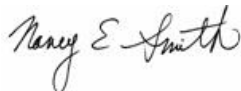**Testimony of GrowSmart Maine**
in support of LD 1682
An Act To Require Consideration of Climate and Equity Impacts by
the Public Utilities Commission

May 12, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and Members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology I am Nancy Smith, and I live in Monmouth. I am executive director of GrowSmart Maine, a statewide organization building lasting prosperity while protecting the quality of life that defines Maine. We support policies, programs and projects that define and protect the value of our unique built and natural places while supporting long term economic opportunity.

I believe this bill is well aligned with how best to achieve GrowSmart Maine's mission of building lasting prosperity without sacrificing the quality of life that defines Maine. The Public Utilities Commission is charged with regulating utilities to ensure that Maine citizens have access to safe and reliable services at rates that are just and reasonable for all ratepayers. It makes sense from economic, community and environmental perspectives to incorporate into the PUC's mandate consideration for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and compliance with Maine's climate statute, equity, and environmental justice in its decision-making. While just and reasonable rates and safe and reliable services are essential components of utility services, equity, environmental justice and climate change can no longer be dismissed.

Best,

Nancy E. Smith

Executive Director