

Susan Bosco
Portland
LD 2077

Dear Senator Lawrence, Representative Ziegler, and members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee,

My name is Susan Bosco and I am a resident of Portland, Maine . I am testifying in favor of LD 2077 because it aims to protect Maine's natural environment and the health and well being of Maine residents.

Maine's fracked 'natural' gas infrastructure poses immediate and ongoing threats to health, and the expansion and indefinite operation of Maine's gas system is inconsistent with statutory climate and clean energy goals.

The future of natural gas infrastructure threatens to leave ratepayers with volatile utility costs and paying for stranded assets.

Maine has established mandatory regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. Reducing pollution from burning fossil fuels such as natural gas, propane, and heating oil in buildings, which represents 27% of Maine's emissions. Passing LD 2077 plays a critical role in reaching this goal.

Burning gas for cooking and heating creates indoor air pollution linked to asthma in children, exposes people to carcinogens like benzene, and contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone or smog. Poor air quality and the associated impacts are notoriously inequitable. Pre-existing and chronic health conditions exacerbated by air pollution are associated with race, income, and age.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote 'ought to pass' on LD 2077.

Sincerely,
Susan Bosco
Portland, Maine