

Delene Perley
Portland
LD 2077

To the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee on January 23, 2024:

My name is Delene Perley, I am a resident of Portland and I am testifying in favor of LD 2077.

I live in an 80-unit condo building in Portland, which opened in January 2014. My heating, stove and fireplace are powered by natural gas. We left a home in Windham that was heated with propane.

Please note that my desire to help the environment is exhibited by my purchase of an EV/Hybrid vehicle and by my walking to most places in town, save the grocery store. I have after ten years here not learned how to manage any parking requirements, since I never use them. As a Unitarian Universalist, I chose as my focus MUUSAN's Climate Change committee.

Recently I have learned of the dangers of heating and cooking with natural gas. But what can I do? Yes, I could buy a new stove and stop using the fireplace, for which I paid a good deal extra. BUT I cannot use heat pumps.

There was a time that we thought natural gas was plentiful and inexpensive. But if I were buying now, I would be looking for a place with electric power. If less natural gas was available, cost more to use and customers were requiring "better for the environment" sources for heat and cooking, builders would respond accordingly. Of course, that would make the environment better for all; Maine doesn't need more issues with winter sports, maple trees, and shores that are washing away, to name but a few problems with rising temperatures caused by fossil fuels.

SO, please vote "ought to pass" on LD 2077. Your fellow citizens will thank you for it.

Sincerely,
Delene Perley
Middle Street
Portland, Maine