

Linda Sanborn
Gorham
LD 2077

Testimony in favor of LD 2077

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler, and distinguished members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee,

My name is Linda Sanborn, a resident of Gorham, and a retired family physician and former state legislator. I am testifying in favor of LD 2077 as both a member of Physicians for Social Responsibility and a member of the First Parish Gorham UCC church Environmental Justice Committee.

My church, my household, and so many other residents of Maine are adopting heat pumps and solar energy to wean ourselves off fossil fuels including oil and fractured “natural” gas to protect our environment, health, and Maine’s economy. I was proud to be a member of the legislature when we set mandatory regulations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% of 1990 levels by 2030. LD 2077 is essential to reaching that goal.

A critical consideration in weighing the importance of this bill has to do with equity. Rate-payers should not be saddled with paying for expansion of gas related infrastructure from which they do not benefit, the cost of which will extend long after the usefulness of this infrastructure. We also have abundant evidence that the negative health impacts of poor air quality are inequitable, affecting those of lower income, minority races, and older residents more profoundly.

Please vote “ought to pass” on LD 2077 to continue the good work toward reducing greenhouse gases and improving health outcomes for all.

Thank you!
Linda Sanborn, MD
Gorham, ME