

Madison Sheppard
Waterford
LD 2077

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

My name is Madison Sheppard, and I am a former resident of Waterford. I am testifying in favor of LD 2077 because fracked gas creates health problems and is inconsistent with Maine's climate goals.

I am a former resident of Maine, I moved out of Maine last year but if I could have had a say in it I'd still be in Maine. Since I started my climate justice journey almost 4 years ago, Maine's environment and its communities have held a very special place in my heart; and therefore I am testifying for this bill to show my support and my unwavering love for the state of Maine.

Maine has been a great example to other states with its environmental laws and projects, the state has already set in place a regulation to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050, which 27% of Maine's emissions are made up of fossil fuels including natural gas. Passing this bill will contribute to the state of Maine reaching these mandatory goals.

As I mentioned previously, Maine has some incredible communities. I was involved with the community of Norway, the town is a close-knit community that is greatly focused on the environment. Maine community members may rely on gas for heat and cooking, I know I did in my Maine home. This creates indoor air pollution that exposes people to carcinogens like benzene, and contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone or smog. These components can contribute to the development of asthma in children and overall is not healthy to breathe in, these pollutants can also increase the effects of pre-existing health conditions.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please vote 'ought to pass' on LD 2077, for Maine's environment and for Maine's communities.

Sincerely,
Madison Sheppard
Former Maine resident and youth activist