

Ella Tabasky  
Brunswick  
LD 2077

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

My name is Ella Tabasky and I am a resident of Brunswick. I am testifying in favor of LD 2077 because I have seen firsthand the dangerous impacts of methane leaks on public health.

Methane is the major component of natural gas and is a climate super-pollutant that has more than 80 times the warming power of carbon dioxide over 20 years.

Research shows that methane leaks from distribution mains, services, and appliances within the home are systematically undercounted – including by the EPA methodology now used to account for Maine’s greenhouse gas emissions.

When living in Los Angeles, I organized alongside the residents of Porter Ranch as they attempted to recover from the damaging impacts of the 2015 Aliso Canyon gas leak, which is the largest natural gas leak in US history.

Nearly 10,000 families were displaced from their homes and forced to relocate, two schools had to close for the school year, and thousands reported health symptoms - headaches, nosebleeds, nausea and worse.

I don’t want to see what happened in Porter Ranch to happen again in my community. The state’s natural gas infrastructure poses immediate and ongoing threats to public health. Furthermore, the expansion of Maine’s gas system is inconsistent with statutory climate and clean energy goals.

Please vote OUGHT TO PASS on LD 2077. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ella Tabasky  
Brunswick