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*Testimony of Sen. Chloe Maxmin supporting*  
**LD 1231, “An Act Concerning Climate and Community Investment Projects”**  
*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing*

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, and honorable members of the Labor and Housing Committee:

My name is Chloe Maxmin. I represent Senate District 13, which includes all of Lincoln County except for Dresden, plus Washington and Windsor—a total of twenty-seven towns. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1231, “An Act Concerning Climate and Community Investment Projects.”

As many of you know, I’ve spent the last 16 years as a community organizer, primarily focused on combating climate change and building a resilient Maine. In recent years, Maine has made great strides in one area that is very important to achieving these goals: Incentivizing and promoting renewable energy projects. Renewable energy sources like wind and solar are better for our planet, better for our health, and can be great drivers of economic growth if managed properly.

The climate crisis will not affect all of us equally; no crisis does. We can see this illustrated by our most recent dual crises, the pandemic and its economic fallout. The people who have suffered the most during the past year are working class people whose jobs often put them in harms way, or whose jobs couldn’t sustain them through the pandemic. They are disproportionately low-income people, women and people of color. These populations are also the most likely to be adversely affected by climate change.

As we get to work building a renewable energy infrastructure, we have the opportunity to construct a stronger and more equitable workforce that can prepare us to withstand future crises, both climate and economic. LD 1231 presents one avenue for doing this. By requiring certain renewable energy projects to adhere to labor standards that help train workers, we give more people the opportunity to learn a skilled trade. While construction jobs are short-term in nature, LD 1231 can help these workers find long-term success. This helps these workers provide for themselves and their families while building a stronger economy and workforce for our state.

LD 1231 contains other provisions that will help develop our workforce and provide for workers. This includes decent pay and benefits, equity in hiring practices and the encouragement of Project Labor Agreements. These agreements have been found to ensure that projects are completed on time and within budget. In short, LD 1231 is good for all stakeholders.

Taking real steps to address the effects of climate change we're seeing now, and to mitigate further damage, is the right thing to do for our communities. Making sure we do this in a way that is just, that prioritizes equity and that builds our state's workforce is right for all communities.

Thank you for your consideration of this bill; I hope you will choose to support it. I'm happy to answer any questions at this time.

Sincerely,  
Chloe Maxmin