

Scott Vlaun
Maine Climate Action NOW

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

My name is Scott Vlaun. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Maine Climate Action NOW. We are a coalition of grassroots climate justice-focused organizations in Maine including, Sierra Club Maine, 350 Maine, Maine Youth for Climate Justice, A Climate to Thrive, and the organization with which I am affiliated, The Center for an Ecology-Based Economy.

We now face serious impacts from climate disruption. These impacts, compounded by the crises of economic inequality and racial inequity will only worsen for the foreseeable future, unduly affecting Maine's youth and low and middle income households. Our response to climate disruption needs to create high quality jobs and advance equity, while creating opportunities for a just transition to a renewable energy future. We now have opportunities to create thousands of high quality new jobs for Mainers, but that won't just happen if left to market forces alone.

LD 1231 will not only advance the goals of Maine's visionary Climate Action Plan, but it will also provide greater opportunities for young people in our State as they enter the workforce to get good paying jobs. It will also help keep our youth in Maine where skilled workers will be sorely needed to meet Maine's climate objectives.

LD 1231 takes important steps to ensure that jobs in the clean energy economy pay living wages with benefits; that we are training a highly skilled workforce; that we create meaningful training opportunities through apprenticeship; that we are advancing equity by encouraging hiring of indigenous people, people of color, women and veterans; and that we prioritize the safety of workers.

Maine has shown exemplary leadership in calling for climate action. Now is the time for Maine to lead the way toward climate justice. LD 1231 will be a strong step in the right direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Scott Vlaun
Executive Director
Center for an Ecology-Based Economy