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*Testimony of Senator Anne Carney in Favor of*  
**LD 373, An Act to Ensure Maine Employer and Employee Harmony in  
Climate and Energy Jobs**

*Before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing  
February 6, 2024*

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and esteemed members of the Labor and Housing Committee, I am Anne Carney, representing Senate District 29, which includes South Portland, Cape Elizabeth and part of Scarborough. I urge the committee to vote Ought To Pass As Amended by the sponsor's amendment on LD 373, "An Act to Ensure Maine Employer and Employee Harmony in Climate and Energy Jobs."

When Maine's Climate Action Plan "Maine Won't Wait" came out in December 2020, I felt hopeful that our state would move swiftly on the work we know needs to be done here in Maine and across our country to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase our access to renewable energy, and adapt to the impact of climate change on our communities and our state as a whole. One aspect of the climate council's work that I followed closely was the "[Cost of Doing Nothing](#)" analysis. I urge you to take a look at it, especially the assessment of flood risk beginning on page 33 of the report.

The Cost Of Doing Nothing analysis and climate plan, I thought, would launch our state into action and inspire other states to follow our lead. But I also thought we had time to adapt our infrastructure and our economy. This winter's storms opened my eyes to the cost of doing nothing in my community and in our state. It gave new urgency to our climate action.

I support Senator Tipping's labor harmony bill because it will help us accomplish the goals of the Maine Climate Action Plan at the urgent pace necessary to protect our people, infrastructure and state economy.

The December 1, 2023 [Climate Council Progress Report](#) summed up the status of our climate work as follows:

The past 36 months are a study in contrasts. On one side, the effects of climate change in Maine, our nation, and our world remain dire. Just here in our home state, extreme weather has caused millions of dollars in damages to valuable infrastructure, which is

putting strain on communities that are only now preparing for the reality of damage of this magnitude.

On the other side, the financial and technical wherewithal to act on climate change has arguably never been greater.

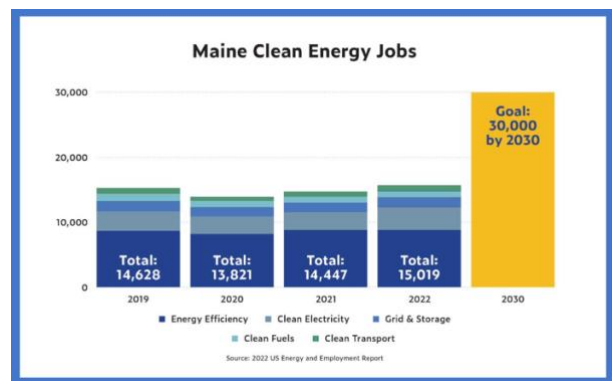
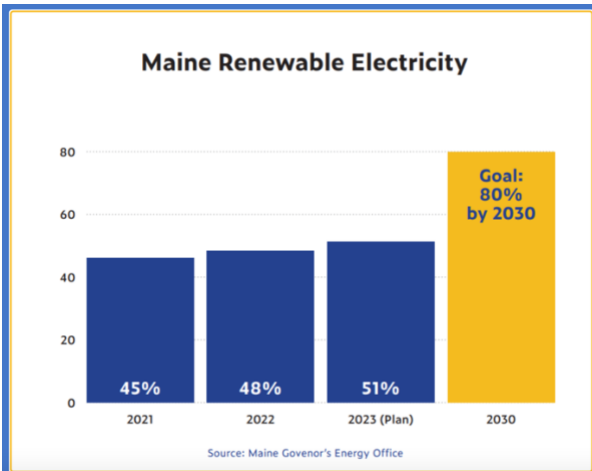
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Although much progress has occurred under Maine Won't Wait, the Climate Council – as part of its work to update the climate plan for the next four years – is examining the critical challenges that lay ahead.

While the upheaval in global energy markets of the past two year has eased, for now, it remains imperative to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. This is more than just a climate imperative for reducing emissions – it is now vital for the safety and security of Maine people, businesses, and communities from hardships caused by unpredictable, unaffordable energy costs.

And that was before we experienced three destructive storms in December and January that severely damaged homes, roads and bridges throughout Maine. In Senate District 29 all three storms, but especially the third, forever changed the face of beloved state and municipal parks. Roads and bridges in District 29 projected by the [Maine Climate Impact Dashboard](#) to be impacted by an 8.8 foot sea level rise became impassable after the most recent storm and needed emergency repair work before they were safe to drive on.

The Climate Action Plan's original recommendation was to prepare to manage for 3 feet of relative sea-level rise by 2050 and 8.8 feet by 2100. It seems like we need to accelerate our climate work. Our progress has been steady, but as the December 2023 update and [Overall Progress Dashboard](#) indicate, we have a lot of work to complete to meet our 2030 goals:



The Progress Report notes that Maine has been able to make headway in large part due to “delivering unprecedented [federal funding] support for climate and resilience priorities.” These include the American Rescue Plan Act, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act and the Chips and Science Act. State funding and leadership have also

contributed significantly to our progress. LD 373 will protect these investments of federal and state resources. LD 373 will also ensure that our work toward the related goals of 80% renewable electricity and 30,000 clean energy jobs in Maine by 2030 will proceed with the required urgency due to harmony agreements between employers and employees.

Projects that allow us to reach our climate goals, when supported by federal and state dollars, on leased state land or involving the Maine Connectivity Authority and other public grants, must proceed efficiently, safely and rapidly. LD 373 will allow this to happen.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. I urge you to support LD 373 as amended by Senator Tipping.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne".

**Anne Carney**  
State Senator, Senate District 29  
*South Portland, Cape Elizabeth, and part of Scarborough*