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Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government,

Third Act Maine is a statewide group of over 1,000 Maine elders committed to stopping all new fossil fuel investment and development and preserving democracy. One of our overarching goals is to support youth and to consider how our actions today affect the future for our children and grandchildren and for generations to come. Given that climate change is an established, ongoing and worsening threat, caused in large part by the fossil fuel industry, any laws designed to preserve the rights of the fossil fuel industry over the rights of their customers (all of us) is a threat to that future.

LD 556 is a fossil fuel handout that would take away the right of Maine communities to set policies that increase efficiency, reduce pollution, and lower energy costs. It is basically LD 894 back from the dead (LD 894 failed last session) designed to forbid energy self-determination at the local level, and undermine Maine's long tradition of home rule in favor of corporate interests.

This bill is part of a national effort being pushed by the fossil fuel industry, using the same approach that Big Tobacco used, once upon a time, to prevent cities and towns from limiting smoking, or the advertising of tobacco products to protect their citizen's health.

Switching from expensive oil and propane heating to high-efficiency heat pumps in Maine has been and continues to be a proven success, with over 100,000 heat pumps installed to date, saving Mainers money around the state. Of course this is hugely threatening to oil and gas companies because they want to make sure that the majority of Maine households continue paying premium prices for dirty heating fuels so that they (the fossil fuel industry) can continue to reap record profits.

Please vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 556.

Sincerely,

Deborah Fahy

Environmental Priorities Coalition Representative

Third Act Maine

March 18, 2025