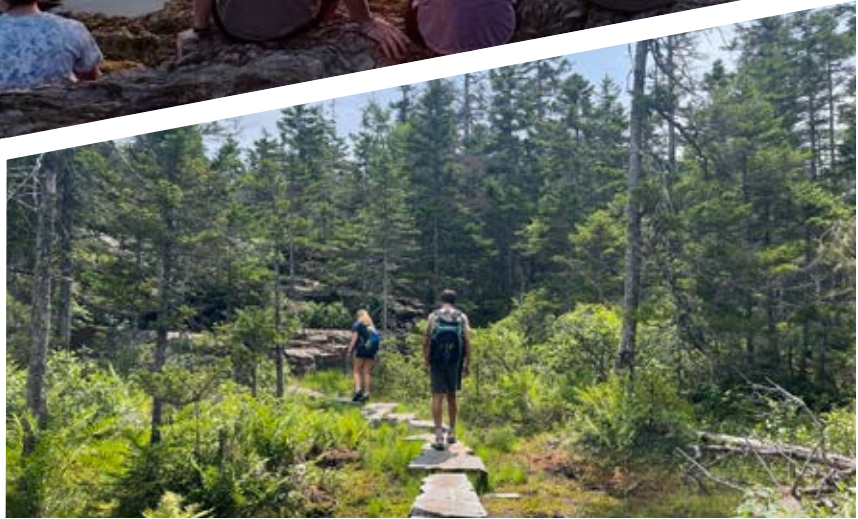




 Maine Conservation Voters
2023 ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD
FOR MEMBERS OF THE 131ST MAINE LEGISLATURE





Maine Conservation Voters protects the environment and our democracy by influencing public policy, holding politicians accountable, and winning elections.

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On the cover: Thank you to Hannah Somers for sharing her seal photo (bottom left) and to Mark Olsen on Unsplash for sharing his loon photo (top right).



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Welcome

Dear Friends,

The longest legislative session in recent history wrapped up in the final days of July and, with your help, we achieved major wins for the environment and our democracy. We also made incredible progress towards a just, clean energy future for Maine.

Together with legislative champions, partners from the Environmental Priorities Coalition, labor unions, Mainers for Modern Elections – and members and supporters like you – we are:

- launching a responsible and equitable Maine-based offshore wind industry;
- ensuring access to affordable clean energy for all;
- protecting loons from lead poisoning;
- protecting voting rights for eligible voters; and
- building momentum for bold, transformative policies.

We were inspired by the Legislature's bipartisan support and passage of *An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations*, but deeply disappointed by Governor Mills' veto of the legislation. A separate bill, *An Act to Advance Self-determination for Wabanaki Nations*, was carried over to the 2024 legislative session. We'll be standing shoulder to shoulder with our partners in the Wabanaki Alliance as the Legislature and governor weigh yet another important opportunity to recognize the inherent sovereignty of the Wabanaki Nations.

Maine's annual Environmental Scorecard tracks legislators' voting records on critical environmental, climate, environmental justice, and democracy legislation. **This year, 88 lawmakers scored 100% on Maine's Environmental Scorecard, earning the title of Conservation Champion. Unfortunately, 66 policymakers scored ZERO on the Scorecard, voting against bills that protect our environment, democracy, and communities.**

Previously, the Scorecard counted legislators' absences as votes *against* our shared values. Though this process accurately captured who showed up to vote, it often lumped lawmakers who missed votes due to family and medical leave with those who "took a walk" to avoid a difficult vote. To better reflect legislators' commitment to our priorities, this year's Scorecard does not count absences against a member's score.

Now is the time to hold your elected officials accountable and keep building support and momentum for environmental justice, thriving communities, a healthy democracy, and protections for our beautiful lands, waters, and wildlife.

Thanks again to all of you who were so engaged in helping move our shared priorities forward this session – we can't do this work without you!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen Drouin".

Maureen Drouin
Executive Director



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Melville".

Jennifer Melville
Board President

Launching a Responsible and Equitable Offshore Wind Industry for Maine



LD 1895: An Act Regarding the Procurement of Energy from Offshore Wind Resources

Sponsored by Sen. Mark Lawrence

LD 1895 is the result of productive collaboration between environmental groups, organized labor, fisheries stakeholders, legislative champions, and the Mills Administration. The bill sets a procurement schedule for a goal of 3GW of installed offshore wind energy by 2040, establishes strong labor standards for the installation of wind turbines and the construction of a world-class offshore wind port in Maine, and creates a framework for fairly and expeditiously permitting offshore wind port infrastructure. The legislation centers equity and environmental protection by incentivizing development outside of Lobster Management Area 1 (a priority fishing ground for fisheries stakeholders) and requiring developers to plan for stakeholder engagement; economic and community benefits; diversity, equity, and inclusion in employment and contracting; fisheries, environmental, and wildlife research, monitoring, and mitigation; and investment in fishing communities. It also requires that the Governor's Energy Office ask for comments from each federally recognized tribe in the state and the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission in crafting the framework for purchasing the offshore wind power from developers. With LD 1895, Maine will be on track to transition to 100% renewable energy by 2040 in a way that benefits all Maine people.

YES IS THE PRO ENVIRONMENT VOTE

House Roll Call #357 July 25, 2023	Senate Roll Call #488 July 25, 2023
✓ 59	✓ 19
✗ 40	✗ 8
A 51	A 8
vacant 1	



161 REGISTRANTS
for MCV's Lunch & Learn featuring Mainers for Offshore Wind



381 EMAILS
to legislators



625 PETITION SIGNATURES



27 REGISTRANTS
for MCV's storytelling workshop

A group of MCV's partners, members, and supporters gathered at the State House for Conservation Lobby Day on May 18.



BEHIND THE ROLL CALL:



Maine's Offshore Wind Roadmap laid the foundation for this bill, and the persistent collaboration of key stakeholders in this multi-year administrative and legislative process led to this victory.

Developed through an 18-month public process led by the Governor's Energy Office, the Roadmap outlines a comprehensive plan to responsibly and equitably launch a thriving offshore wind industry in Maine. The data-driven plan reflects input from coastal communities and energy, economic, fisheries, wildlife, science, labor, and environmental leaders. LD 1895 enacts top recommendations of the Roadmap, including a procurement schedule and strong standards for wildlife, fisheries, and environmental monitoring and mitigation, and builds on that framework by requiring strong labor protections and fostering inclusive benefits for vulnerable communities.

"Rather than leave decisions about the siting and growth of the industry to private companies or the federal government, this legislation would give the state more control over the location and growth of the industry in Maine."

—Bangor Daily News Editorial Board, June 12, 2023

Sens. Mark Lawrence, Chip Curry, and Stacy Brenner sponsored three pieces of legislation that became part of the comprehensive enacted bill. These Senate champions were critical in bill negotiations and offered important strategic advice throughout the process. Members of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee advocated for and improved the legislation. Progress could have stalled when **Governor Mills** vetoed the offshore wind ports bill (LD 1847), but bill champions responded to the Governor's offer to keep collaborating and worked with members of her staff to reach an agreement combining the procurement and ports language. LD 1895 passed in both chambers on party lines without any Republican support, and was signed into law by **Governor Mills**.

LD 1895 was part of the Environmental Priorities Coalition's common agenda. Maine Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Council of Maine, and Maine Audubon led coalition efforts, and key leadership and advocacy came from other core members of the Mainers for Offshore Wind coalition, including Maine Climate Action Now, Maine Labor Climate Council, Ironworkers Local 7, Laborers' International Union Local 327, and Maine State Building and Construction Trades Council.

With invaluable feedback and collaboration from the Maine Lobstering Union, this remarkable coalition worked tirelessly to ensure that offshore wind will benefit Maine people, protect our natural resources and heritage industries, and help our communities thrive.



Ensuring Access to Affordable Clean Energy



LD 1986: An Act Relating to Net Energy Billing and Distributed Solar and Energy Storage Systems

Sponsored by Sen. Mark Lawrence

LD 1986 represents a positive step forward in prospectively reforming Maine’s Net Energy Billing (NEB) program, which enables customers to offset their electricity bills with the solar power they generate. The legislation closes the costly commercial and industrial tariff program within NEB, creates a new program for solar projects to take advantage of federal funds and benefit low-income Mainers, directs the Maine Public Utilities Commission to account for NEB ratepayer costs and benefits instead of relying on utility calculations, and ensures the development of a new solar program for larger projects moving forward.

YES IS THE PRO ENVIRONMENT VOTE

House Roll Call #353 July 6, 2023	Senate Roll Call #444 June 22, 2023
✓ 77	✓ 20
✗ 52	✗ 13
A 22	A 2



241 REGISTRANTS

for MCV’s Lunch & Learn featuring Lindsay Bourgoine, ReVision Energy, and Beth Woolfolk, A Climate to Thrive



181 EMAILS & CALLS to legislators



HUNDREDS OF CALLS to legislators from constituents



SIGN-ON LETTER from 7 Maine environmental nonprofits



On June 28, MCV joined the ribbon cutting for the first community solar farm in Norway, Maine. This site is a “brightfield” (or brownfield) redeveloped into a solar project.

BEHIND THE ROLL CALL:


Governor Janet Mills entered office in 2019 committed to jumpstarting Maine’s clean energy economy with strong solar policy. She worked with the 129th Legislature to pass LD 1711, which successfully utilized Net Energy Billing (NEB) to promote distributed generation, including solar. Following several years of rapid solar development, the Legislature amended NEB in 2021 and 2022 to limit the size of eligible projects, reduce the amount of compensation for the energy that projects produce, and establish a stakeholder group to develop a successor program. Despite the clear timeline for



sunsetting NEB by the end of 2024, cost concerns – stemming from both spikes in electricity rates due to Maine’s reliance on the volatile fossil fuel market for electricity generation and opaque utility assumptions about how much clean energy might be built in the NEB program – prompted immediate action.

Legislators on the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee took different approaches to this issue: **Committee Chair Sen. Mark Lawrence** introduced LD 1986 to prospectively adjust and improve the NEB program, while **Rep. Steven Foster** proposed LD 1347 to effectively eliminate NEB and allow Maine’s Public Utilities Commission to retroactively reevaluate existing solar contracts. The Committee seemed poised to split along party lines, with Democrats supporting LD 1986 and Republicans backing LD 1347, but two Democrats – **Rep. Sophie Warren** and **Sen. Nicole Grohoski** – supported *both* bills. As a result, the two conflicting bills both advanced to the full legislature.

Anticipating the resulting confusion – and recognizing the need for equitable solar reform and the threat to Maine’s climate future posed by LD 1347 – the Environmental Priorities Coalition elevated LD 1986 to its common agenda. Maine Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Council of Maine, and Acadia Center led coalition efforts in partnership with A Climate To Thrive, Maine Renewable Energy Association, and Coalition for Community Solar Access. Proponents of LD 1347 included **Public Advocate William Harwood**, Industrial Energy Consumer Group, and AARP of Maine.



“Mainers should take pride in our leadership on climate issues and our forward-looking Climate Action Plan. LD 1986 fully supports these goals and ensures continued progress.” —Rep. Gerry Runte

The House at first rejected LD 1986 as they wanted to prioritize and pass LD 1347. However, the Senate definitively rejected LD 1347 and then sent LD 1986 to the House as the opportunity for NEB reform this session. With

one option left on the table, the House passed LD 1986. After multiple weeks of legislative advocacy and discussions between chambers, proponents of LD 1347 conceded, and LD 1986 was passed in both chambers and signed into law by **Governor Mills**. Despite this victory, NEB policy is far from settled, and we expect the Legislature to address this issue again in next year’s special session.

Blocking the Fossil Fuel Protection Act



LD 894: An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor

Sponsored by Sen. Matthew Harrington

LD 894 would have prevented Maine towns from passing ordinances that reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, from phasing out natural gas hookups in new construction to transitioning to more efficient, electrified heating. Identical legislation has been adopted in 20 states due to a national effort led by the fossil fuel industry and framed as “energy choice.” More aptly called the “fossil fuel protection bill,” LD 894 was defeated by the Maine Legislature, upholding the home rule authority of towns to phase out fossil fuel infrastructure and increase the beneficial electrification of heating and transportation if they so choose.

YES IS THE PRO ENVIRONMENT
VOTE IN THE HOUSE

NO IS THE PRO ENVIRONMENT
VOTE IN THE SENATE

House Roll Call #217 June 14, 2023	Senate Roll Call #309 June 13, 2023
✓ 76	✓ 15
✗ 71	✗ 19
A 4	A 1



32 EMAILS
to legislators

BEHIND THE ROLL CALL:

Defeating LD 894 was a mid-session addition to the Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC) common agenda. The Maine Municipal Association, the City of Portland, the Governor’s Energy Office, A Climate to Thrive, and Maine Lung Association joined many EPC organizations in testifying against the bill, while the Maine Energy Marketers Association – the trade group representing Maine’s petroleum dealers – worked tirelessly to advance it.



“LD 894 limits home rule and the ability of local communities to decide what works best for their residents. Communities should not be prohibited from setting local public health and safety standards.” —Rep. Holly Stover

LD 894 was heard in the State and Local Government (SLG) Committee, where **Sen. Joe Baldacci** introduced an amendment that would have allowed towns to promote clean energy but still prohibited them from phasing out fossil fuels. At first, the committee unanimously supported the amendment, but reconsidered its vote after the EPC prioritized defeating the bill. In a 7-6 committee vote, all House Democrats and Independent **Rep. Walter Riseman** voted against LD 894, while all three Senators and all Republicans on the SLG Committee voted in support. There was no debate in the Senate where, thankfully, the ‘Majority Ought to Pass’ report (scored here) was defeated 15-19. Republican **Sen. Rick Bennett** joined most Senate Democrats in voting against the bill, while all other Senate Republicans voted in favor along with four Democrats – **Senate President Troy Jackson** and **Sens. Baldacci, Tim Nangle, Joe Rafferty, and Peggy Rotundo**. In the House, SLG members spoke on both sides of the bill, with **Rep. Randall Greenwood** in favor and **SLG Committee Chair Rep. Holly Stover** in opposition. The ‘Ought Not to Pass’ motion prevailed, 76-71 (scored here).

Protecting Loons from Lead Poisoning



LD 958: An Act to Expand Protections to Maine's Loons from Lead Poisoning by Prohibiting the Sale and Use of Certain Painted Lead Jigs

Sponsored by Rep. Allison Hepler

Lead poisoning has long been one of the leading causes of death for adult loons in Maine. When loons ingest lost or discarded fishing tackle, or swallow fish that have ingested tackle, they can be exposed to hazardous and life threatening chemicals – including lead – that are contained in that tackle. Following a five-year phase-out process, it has been illegal to sell and/or use small-sized lead sinkers and bare “unpainted” jigs in Maine since 2017. While this law and subsequent education programs have proven effective in many ways, a loophole allowed for the sale and use of small-sized painted lead jigs, which experts believe and research indicates are still impacting loons since the paint does nothing to make the lead safer. Exactly ten years after the last bill to protect loons from lead was passed, LD 958 closed this loophole and prohibits the sale and use of this painted fishing tackle.

YES IS THE PRO ENVIRONMENT VOTE

House Roll Call
#158
June 8, 2023

Senate Roll Call
#273
June 12, 2023



76



27



54



5

A 0

A 0

vacant 1

BEHIND THE ROLL CALL:

Maine Audubon led the successful effort to protect Maine's loons. Dozens submitted testimony in support of LD 958, with anglers, lead scientists, veterinarians, and partners in Maine's environmental community emphasizing that, ten years after the bill to protect loons from lead was enacted, it was time to close this loophole and further protect the health and safety of the species. **Rep. Tavis Hasenfus** delivered one of the most powerful testimonies, sharing that his daughter Gavia's name comes from *Gavia immer*, the scientific name for the Common Loon, and reinforcing how beloved and iconic loons are in Maine. Backed by a petition from Maine Audubon with more than 1,000 signatures in favor of the bill, this endorsement helped secure bipartisan support for this initiative.

Throughout discussions in the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, **Reps. Allison Hepler, Sally Cluchey, and Cheryl Golek** supported listening to the science-based arguments for expanding protections for loons. While non-toxic tackle can be somewhat more expensive, programs are in place to provide lead-free tackle samples at no cost to anglers. These three legislators made sure their colleagues were aware of Maine's lead fishing tackle buy-back program, Fish Lead Free, which is run by Maine Audubon, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and others. (For more information, go to fishleadfree.org.)

After a favorable 10-3 committee vote, LD 958 was swiftly passed by the Legislature and signed into law by **Governor Mills**.



Maine Audubon advocated for the Common Loon at the State House and delivered an impressive petition in support of LD 958.

Protecting Voting Rights for Eligible Voters



LD 1365: An Act to Require Photograph Identification for Voting

Sponsored by Rep. Reagan Paul

LD 1365 proposed to require voters to show a photo ID when voting. Maine law already requires voters to prove their identity before they can register to vote, making this bill unnecessary and redundant. Additionally, requiring photo ID would make it harder for some Mainers to vote, including seniors who don't drive and may not have a driver's license, people in rural areas, people of color, and younger voters. Similar legislation has been proposed, and passed, by extreme Republicans in states around the country using the misleading argument that identification policies make elections more secure. These policies do not make elections more secure. MCV supports preserving the freedom to vote for all eligible Mainers and given Maine's already secure and accessible elections with the highest voter turnout in the country, we opposed this bill.

YES IS THE PRO DEMOCRACY POSITION

House Roll Call #283 June 20, 2023	Senate Roll Call #422 June 12, 2023
✓ 80	✓ 22
✗ 65	✗ 12
A 0	A 0



BEHIND THE ROLL CALL:

Defeating LD 1365 was a key priority for Mainers for Modern Elections (MME), a pro-democracy coalition committed to ensuring that our right to vote safely transcends politics and partisanship by advocating for safe, secure, and modern elections. Democracy Maine led coalition efforts, supported by MME members – including MCV, AARP of Maine, ACLU of Maine, Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition, Maine Education Association, and Defend Our Health – as well as Disability Rights Maine and EqualityMaine.



This was the second of two bills this session put forth to make it harder for Mainers to vote and the MME coalition mobilized so effectively against the first bill – LD 34, *An Act to Require a Person to Show Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting* – that it sealed the fate for LD 1365 as well. Pernicious legislation like this can only be effectively defeated with strong committee leadership like that on the Veterans and Legal Affairs (VLA) Committee. **Committee Chairs Sen. Craig Hickman** and **Rep. Laura Supica** organized hearings that ensured a respectful airing of a contentious issue without allowing disinformation or unfounded, misleading talking points to dominate. Both pieces of legislation ended up with “Majority Ought Not to Pass” reports from the VLA Committee, as a majority of the committee did not find that the proposed legislation would make Maine's elections safer. “Yes” votes in the House and Senate approved that “Ought Not to Pass” report, killing LD 1365 and protecting voting rights for eligible Maine voters.

Safeguarding Democracy in the Classroom



LD 1518: An Act Regarding the Rights of Parents to Withdraw Their Children from Public School Classes or Activities That Include Certain Controversial Viewpoints

Sponsored by Rep. James Thorne

LD 1518 would have allowed parents to withdraw their children temporarily from a class or school activity if, among other things, the parent believed the class might lead their child to adopt “controversial viewpoints.” While schools already have policies in place to address education that conflicts with parents’ sincerely held religious beliefs, this bill would have defined discussions of race, color, sex, and national origin as “controversial” under state law, making a student’s very identity controversial and allowing parents to remove their children from hearing about any of these topics. Schools are places where young people learn how to be engaged citizens in a democracy – how to form an opinion, how to back up that opinion with supporting evidence, and how to disagree respectfully. Impeding this development impedes our future democracy.

YES IS THE PRO DEMOCRACY VOTE

House Roll Call
#142
June 8, 2023



76



64

A 10

vacant 1

Senate Roll Call
#265
June 12, 2023



22



11

A 0

BEHIND THE ROLL CALL:

LD 1518 is best understood in the context of broader censorship efforts at the state and local levels. Eight school districts have received formal challenges to specific books since mid-2022, and the Legislature heard almost a dozen bills related to limiting what children may learn in schools. Education organizations, librarians, social workers, and civil rights organizations showed up in force to oppose these pro-censorship bills, but lawmakers split along party lines. In the Education Committee, where **Chairs Sen. Joe Rafferty** and **Rep. Mike Brennan** provided key leadership, all the Democrats voted against LD 1518 and all the Republicans voted to permit censorship. Though LD 1518 was swiftly defeated in the full Legislature, **Rep. Lucas Lanigan** was the only Republican in either chamber to vote against LD 1518 and censorship.



Restoring Access to Federal Benefits for Wabanaki Nations



YES IS THE PRO ENVIRONMENT VOTE

House Roll Call #348 July 6, 2023	Senate Roll Call #425 June 21, 2023
✓ 84	✓ 26
✗ 57	✗ 8
A 0	A 0



406 EMAILS
to legislators

“For thousands of years, we have been here.



For hundreds of years, we have fought for our survival and identity. And we will continue to do so. Patience and determination are nothing new to us. Waiting a few more years for a new Governor is what we will do if we must. We were here long before Governor Mills and we will be here long after she leaves office.”

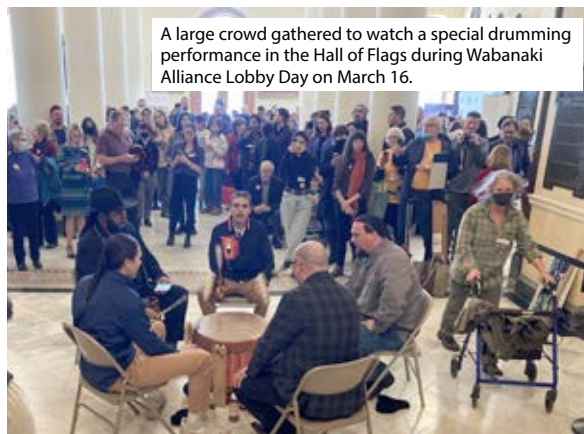
—Penobscot Nation
Ambassador
Maulian Bryant

LD 2004: An Act to Restore Access to Federal Laws Beneficial to the Wabanaki Nations

Sponsored by Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross

Because of the 1980 Settlement Act, tribes in Maine must be specifically written into federal laws passed to benefit Indian Country. No other tribes in the country have this burden, and correcting this injustice was one of twenty-two consensus recommendations from the 2019 Maine Indian Claims Task Force. LD 2004 would have allowed Wabanaki Nations to access laws retroactively and prospectively passed by Congress to benefit Indian Country by requiring that the tribes in Maine be specifically written *out* of federal legislation rather than written *in*. LD 2004 would have only pertained to tribal lands in Maine to minimize the risk of future litigation, and would have carved out specific federal laws like the Clean Water Act. The bill passed with two-thirds support in both chambers but was vetoed by Governor Mills.

The veto override vote is scored in the House. Because it failed there, no veto override vote was taken in the Senate. The enactment vote is scored in the Senate.





BEHIND THE ROLL CALL:

Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross was a strong champion of this bill, and of all tribal bills throughout the legislative session. Republican House leader **Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham** has become her valuable leadership ally on tribal issues, speaking passionately in support of the tribes on the House floor during debates. The Judiciary Committee voted 10-4 in support of the bill, with **Rep. John Andrews** the sole Republican on the Committee to support. On the House floor, 100 Representatives voted for and 47 voted against the bill. All House Democrats (except for **Reps. Bill Bridgeo** and **Anne-Marie Mastraccio**) and 21 Republicans voted for it – more than a two-thirds majority. Unfortunately, after **Governor Mills** vetoed the bill, only 84 Representatives voted to pass LD 2004 while 57 opposed, falling short of the two-thirds necessary to override the Governor’s veto. Democratic **Reps. Bridgeo** and **Mastraccio** again voted against the tribes and to sustain the veto and were joined by **Rep. Ed Crockett**, who flipped. Only 7 Republicans voted to override the veto: **Leader Faulkingham** and **Reps. Andrews, Mark Babin, David Boyer, Amanda Collamore, Tim Guerrette, and Ben Hymes**. In the Senate, LD 2004 had the support of all the Democrats and four Republicans: **Sens. Rick Bennett, Matt Harrington, Jim Libby, and Marianne Moore**.



2023 Senate Scorecard

-  pro-environment vote
-  anti-environment vote
- A** absent
- * not in office



DISTRICT		2023 Score	Lifetime Score	Offshore Wind	Net Energy Billing	Blocking Fossil Fuel Protection	Loons	Voting Rights	Blocking Censorship	Federal Benefits for Wabanaki Nations
				LD 1895	LD 1986	LD 894	LD 958	LD 1365	LD 1518	LD 2004
31	Donna BAILEY (D)	100%	97%							
9	Joseph BALDACCI (D)	86%	95%							
12	Pinny BEEBE-CENTER (D)	100%	100%							
18	Richard BENNETT (R)	43%	67%							
5	Russell BLACK (R)	0%	60%	A			A		A	
20	Eric BRAKEY (R)	0%	22%							
30	Stacy BRENNER (D)	100%	100%							
29	Anne CARNEY (D)	100%	100%							
28	Benjamin CHIPMAN (D)	100%	99%							
11	Glenn CURRY (D)	100%	100%	A						
23	Matthea DAUGHTRY (D)	100%	100%				A			
27	Jill DUSON (D)	100%	100%	A						
3	Bradlee FARRIN (R)	0%	39%			A	A		A	
7	Nicole GROHOSKI (D)	83%	96%	A						
4	Stacey GUERIN (R)	0%	24%	A						
33	Matthew HARRINGTON (R)	29%	33%							
14	Craig HICKMAN (D)	100%	100%							
32	Henry INGWERSEN (D)	100%	100%							
1	Troy JACKSON (D)	86%	86%							
19	Lisa KEIM (R)	0%	50%		A			A		A
16	David LAFOUNTAIN (D)	100%	100%		A					
35	Mark LAWRENCE (D)	100%	97%							
22	James LIBBY (R)	29%	23%							
10	Peter LYFORD (R)	0%	17%	A						
6	Marianne MOORE (R)	14%	41%							
26	Timothy NANGLE (D)	86%	86%							
25	Teresa PIERCE (D)	100%	100%							
15	Matthew POULIOT (R)	33%	53%	A						
34	Joseph RAFFERTY (D)	86%	95%							
13	Cameron RENY (D)	100%	100%							
21	Margaret ROTUNDO (D)	86%	97%							
2	Harold STEWART (R)	17%	39%	A						
17	Jeffrey TIMBERLAKE (R)	14%	19%							
8	Michael TIPPING (D)	100%	100%							
24	Eloise VITELLI (D)	100%	100%							

2023 House Scorecard





































































































































































































































- ✔ pro-environment vote
- ✘ anti-environment vote
- A** absent
- * not in office

DISTRICT	2023 Score	Lifetime Score	Offshore Wind LD 1895	Net Energy Billing LD 1986	Blocking Fossil Fuel Protection LD 894	Loons LD 958	Voting Rights LD 1365	Blocking Censorship LD 1518	Federal Benefits for Wabanaki Nations LD 2004
95 Mana ABDI (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	A	✔	✔
144 Jeffrey ADAMS (R)	0%	0%	A	A	A	✘	✘	✘	A
2 Roger ALBERT (R)	0%	0%	A	A	✘	A	✘	✘	✘
79 John ANDREWS (R)	20%	18%	A	A	✘	✘	✘	✘	✔
100 Daniel ANKELES (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
104 Amy ARATA (R)	0%	31%	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
6 Donald ARDELL (R)	0%	0%	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
101 Poppy ARFORD (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
3 Mark BABIN (R)	17%	17%	A	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✔
106 Barbara BAGSHAW (R)	0%	0%	A	A	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
103 Arthur BELL (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
138 Mark BLIER (R)	0%	28%	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
87 David BOYER (R)	14%	14%	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✔
109 James BOYLE (D)	100%	100%	A	✔	✔	A	✔	A	✔
61 Richard BRADSTREET (R)	0%	25%	A	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
115 Michael BRENNAN (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
60 William BRIDGEO (D)	86%	86%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘
19 Richard CAMPBELL (R)	0%	16%	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
137 Nathan CARLOW (R)	0%	33%	✘	✘	✘	✘	A	✘	✘
18 Meldon CARMICHAEL (R)	0%	28%	✘	✘	✘	A	✘	✘	✘
94 Kristen CLOUTIER (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	A	✔	✔	✔
52 Sally CLUCHEY (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
68 Amanda COLLAMORE (R)	17%	26%	A	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✔
114 Benjamin COLLINGS (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
130 Lynn COPELAND (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
33 Danny COSTAIN (R)	0%	17%	A	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
46 Lydia CRAFTS (D)	100%	100%	A	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
93 Margaret CRAVEN (D)	100%	98%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
69 Dean CRAY (R)	17%	21%	A	✘	✘	✔	✘	✘	✘
112 Edward CROCKETT (D)	83%	92%	A	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘
63 Scott CYRWAY (R)	0%	42%	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
10 Kenneth DAVIS (R)	0%	0%	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
120 Deqa DHALAC (D)	100%	100%	A	A	✔	A	✔	A	✔
26 James DILL (D)	100%	92%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
39 Janice DODGE (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
41 Victoria DOUDERA (D)	100%	100%	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
27 Gary DRINKWATER (R)	0%	15%	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘
71 John DUCHARME (R)	0%	11%	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘	✘



2023 House Scorecard












































































































































































































































-  pro-environment vote
-  anti-environment vote
- A** absent
- * not in office

DISTRICT



	2023 Score	Lifetime Score	Offshore Wind LD 1895	Net Energy Billing LD 1986	Blocking Fossil Fuel Protection LD 894	Loons LD 958	Voting Rights LD 1365	Blocking Censorship LD 1518	Federal Benefits for Wabanaki Nations LD 2004
72 Larry DUNPHY (R)	0%	26%							
15 Holly EATON (D)	100%	100%	A			A		A	
12 William FAULKINGHAM (R)	14%	19%							
86 Jessica FAY (D)	100%	100%							
32 Steven FOSTER (R)	0%	8%							
143 Ann FREDERICKS (R)	0%	0%	A						
98 Joseph GALLETTA (R)	0%	0%	A	A		A			A
126 Andrew GATTINE (D)	100%	100%							
42 Valli GEIGER (D)	100%	100%							
134 Traci GERE (D)	100%	100%							
28 Irene GIFFORD (R)	0%	0%	A						
99 Cheryl GOLEK (D)	100%	100%							
105 Anne GRAHAM (D)	100%	97%							
131 Lori GRAMLICH (D)	100%	100%	A						
56 Randall GREENWOOD (R)	0%	17%							
34 Abigail GRIFFIN (R)	0%	13%							
4 Timothy GUERRETTE (R)	17%	17%	A						
36 David HAGGAN (R)	0%	14%	A	A					
74 Randall HALL (R)	0%	24%	A						A
57 Tavis HASENFUS (D)	100%	100%				A			
78 Rachel HENDERSON (R)	0%	0%							
49 Allison HEPLER (D)	100%	100%	A		A				
145 Daniel HOBBS (D)	80%	92%	A	A					
38 Benjamin HYMES (R)	17%	17%		A					
80 Caldwell JACKSON (R)	20%	20%	A					A	
51 Rebecca JAUCH (D)	100%	100%							
29 Kathy JAVNER (R)	0%	9%					A		
121 Christopher KESSLER (D)	100%	100%	A						
111 Amy KUHN (D)	100%	100%							
96 Michel LAJOIE (D)	100%	94%			A	A	A	A	A
75 Scott LANDRY (D)	100%	96%							
141 Lucas LANIGAN (R)	50%	50%	A	A		A			
59 Raegan LAROCHELLE (D)	100%	100%							
148 Thomas LAVIGNE (R)	0%	0%	A	A		A			
89 Adam LEE (D)	86%	86%							
53 Michael LEMELIN (R)	0%	6%	A						
90 Laurel LIBBY (R)	0%	5%		A					
113 Grayson LOOKNER (D)	100%	100%							

2023 House Scorecard

-  pro-environment vote
-  anti-environment vote
- A** absent
- * not in office

DISTRICT		2023 Score	Lifetime Score	Offshore Wind LD 1895	Net Energy Billing LD 1986	Blocking Fossil Fuel Protection LD 894	Loons LD 958	Voting Rights LD 1365	Blocking Censorship LD 1518	Federal Benefits for Wabanaki Nations LD 2004
76	Sheila LYMAN (R)	0%	15%							
64	Colleen MADIGAN (D)	100%	100%							
133	Marc MALON (D)	100%	100%							
97	Richard MASON (R)	0%	11%							
142	Anne-Marie MASTRACCIO (D)	71%	95%							
151	Kristi MATHIESON (D)	100%	100%	A			A		A	
43	Ann MATLACK (D)	100%	100%							
150	Michele MEYER (D)	100%	100%							
123	Rebecca MILLETT (D)	100%	98%							
81	Sawin MILLETT (R)	0%	36%							
16	Nina MILLIKEN (D)	100%	100%				A		A	
54	Karen MONTELL (D)	100%	100%							
117	Matthew MOONEN (D)	100%	100%	A					A	
110	Stephen MORIARTY (D)	100%	100%							
91	Joshua MORRIS (R)	0%	15%	A						
125	Kelly MURPHY (D)	100%	100%							
82	Caleb NESS (R)	0%	0%							
58	Daniel NEWMAN (R)	0%	32%		A					A
66	Robert NUTTING (R)	0%	29%							
20	Kevin O'CONNELL (D)	100%	94%					A		
129	Margaret O'NEIL (D)	100%	100%	A						
25	Laurie OSHER (D)	100%	100%	A						
140	Wayne PARRY (R)	0%	33%							
37	Reagan PAUL (R)	0%	0%	A						
50	Sean PAULHUS (D)	100%	94%	*						A
31	Chad PERKINS (R)	0%	0%	A						
9	Anne PERRY (D)	100%	91%							
24	Joseph PERRY (D)	100%	85%	A		A				
44	William PLUECKER (I)	100%	100%							
70	Jennifer POIRIER (R)	0%	31%	A	A		A			
47	Edward POLEWARCZYK (R)	0%	0%							
85	Kimberly POMERLEAU (R)	0%	0%							
107	Jane PRINGLE (D)	100%	100%	A	A					
8	Tracy QUINT (R)	0%	5%							
21	Ambureen RANA (D)	100%	100%							
122	Lois Galgay RECKITT (D)	86%	97%							
127	Morgan RIELLY (D)	100%	100%	A						
83	Walter RISEMAN (I)	100%	100%	A			A			

2023 House Scorecard

-  pro-environment vote
-  anti-environment vote
- A** absent
- * not in office

DISTRICT

	2023 Score	Lifetime Score	Offshore Wind LD 1895	Net Energy Billing LD 1986	Blocking Fossil Fuel Protection LD 894	Loons LD 958	Voting Rights LD 1365	Blocking Censorship LD 1518	Federal Benefits for Wabanaki Nations LD 2004
149 Tiffany ROBERTS (D)	100%	100%	A	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
23 Amy ROEDER (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
67 Shelley RUDNICKI (R)	0%	9%	✗	A	✗	A	✗	A	A
146 Walter RUNTE (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
17 Ronald RUSSELL (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
102 Melanie SACHS (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
128 Suzanne SALISBURY (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
136 Heidi SAMPSON (R)	0%	26%	A	A	✗	A	✗	✗	✗
147 Holly SARGENT (D)	86%	86%	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
135 Daniel SAYRE (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
77 Tammy SCHMERSAL-BURGESS (R)	0%	0%	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
55 Daniel SHAGOURY (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
88 Kathleen SHAW (D)	100%	100%	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
132 Erin SHEEHAN (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
45 Abden SIMMONS (R)	0%	25%	✗	✗	✗	*	✗	*	✗
119 Charles SKOLD (D)	100%	100%	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
62 Katrina SMITH (R)	0%	0%	A	A	✗	✗	✗	✗	A
73 Michael SOBOLESKI (R)	0%	0%	A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
48 Holly STOVER (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
11 Tiffany STROUT (R)	0%	0%	A	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
22 Laura SUPICA (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓
7 Gregory SWALLOW (R)	14%	14%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
118 Rachel TALBOT ROSS (D)	100%	97%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
108 Maureen TERRY (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1 Austin THERIAULT (R)	0%	0%	✗	A	✗	✗	A	✗	A
35 James THORNE (R)	14%	20%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
5 Joseph UNDERWOOD (R)	0%	18%	A	✗	✗	A	✗	✗	✗
84 Mark WALKER (R)	0%	0%	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
124 Sophia WARREN (I)	100%	95%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
65 Bruce WHITE (D)	83%	96%	A	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓
30 James WHITE (R)	0%	0%	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
14 Lynne WILLIAMS (D)	100%	100%	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
92 Stephen WOOD (R)	0%	28%	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
139 David WOODSOME (R)	14%	54%	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
13 James WORTH (D)	100%	100%	A	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
116 Samuel ZAGER (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
40 Stanley ZEIGLER (D)	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Story of the Session



The first year of the 131st Legislature stretched much longer than anticipated, with adjournment coming in the last days of July. Alternately inspiring and frustrating, the story of this rollercoaster session wouldn't be complete without these bills.

Advancing Equity for Wabanaki Nations

LD 78: Resolution, Proposing an Amendment to Article X of the Constitution of Maine Regarding the Publication of Maine Indian Treaty Obligations

Sponsored by Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross

This resolution proposes an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to require that the text of Article X, Section 5, which pertains to Maine Indian treaty obligations, be included in any printed copies of the Constitution included with the laws of the State. This obligation language was removed in 1876, ostensibly to pare down and make Maine's constitution more accessible. Section 5 has, and has always had, the full force of law. Yet one would not know that because the language is not there. **Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross** and **Sen. Rick Bennett** introduced this bill, which received a 12-1 vote in the Judiciary Committee (**Sen. Lyford** opposed). It passed the House and the Senate with the two-thirds majority required for a constitutional amendment and will go to Maine voters in November.



Photo: James McCarthy

Question 6: Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require that all of the provisions of the Constitution be included in the official printed copies of the Constitution prepared by the Secretary of State?

MCV's Beth Ahearn goes over lobbying tips and tricks during the EPC's Conservation Lobby Day on May 18.



Protecting the Environment, Public Health, and Our Climate Future

Maine's [Environmental Priorities Coalition \(EPC\)](#) is a partnership of 37 statewide organizations working together to protect the environment, public health, and our climate future. This year the EPC identified ten bills representing the best collective opportunities to equitably advance our shared priorities. In addition to the EPC priorities scored this year (✔ LD 1895, ✔ LD 894, and ✔ LD 1986), the common agenda included:

✔ **LD 1246: An Act to Include Endangered and Threatened Species Habitat in the Definition of “Significant Wildlife Habitat” Under the Natural Resources Protection Act**

Sponsored by Rep. Lori Gramlich

LD 1246 adds Endangered and Threatened Species Habitat to the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) permit review of otherwise protected natural resources. DEP will consult with the Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to avoid or minimize impacts to endangered and threatened species habitat. The Environment and Natural Resources Committee voted *unanimously* in support of this bill, which passed without debate in both legislative chambers. It was signed into law by **Governor Mills**.

✔ **LD 718: An Act to Increase the Beneficial Reuse of Construction and Demolition Debris**

Sponsored by Sen. Russell Black

LD 718's original intent was to roll back last year's bipartisan law banning out-of-state waste from being dumped in the state-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill in Old Town. Proponents argued that the drastic increase in sludge disposal at Juniper Ridge (due to PFAS-laden sludge no longer being spread on farmland) now requires disposal of more construction debris to stabilize the sludge. The Environment and Natural Resources Committee worked hard to craft a compromise, which will allow 25,000 tons of out-of-state bulky waste per year at Juniper Ridge until 2025, and supported the amended bill, 12-1. LD 718 passed both legislative chambers without debate and was signed into law by **Governor Mills**.

The Legislature will continue work on five additional EPC priorities—🕒 LD 1156, 🕒 LD 993, 🕒 LD 1621, 🕒 LD 928, and 🕒 LD 2007—when it reconvenes in January 2024.



Updating Environmental Protections

Maine's environmental community also advanced legislation to protect clean water, update the longstanding bottle bill, grapple with PFAS contamination, and maintain the state's plastic bag ban.



LD 1363: An Act to Support Extraction of Common Minerals by Amending the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act

Sponsored by Rep. Scott Landry

When Maine's Metallic Mineral Mining Act was passed in 2017, ore deposits that may not fit into the category of regulated sulfide metals – like those containing the critical mineral lithium – were not anticipated. LD 1363 creates a path for mining metals in Maine that may have applications for clean energy technologies, such as lithium-ion batteries, but only after thorough characterization of orebodies. It requires extensive sampling and analysis of orebodies in advance of any possible mining activities, puts the burden of responsibility on the owner of an ore deposit to prove that a deposit is inert, and requires ongoing water quality monitoring to protect human health and the environment. The Department of Environmental Protection worked closely with environmental advocates to craft the bill, and the Environment and Natural Resources Committee advanced it after many hours of discussion. The bill received strong bipartisan support in the House and Senate and was signed into law by **Governor Mills**.



LD 134: An Act to Increase the Handling Fee for Beverage Containers Reimbursed to Dealers and Redemption Centers

Sponsored by Senate President Troy Jackson

For 45 years, Maine's Bottle Bill has reduced litter, increased recycling, created jobs, and saved municipalities money. Its success depends on redemption centers, which receive a statutorily-set handling fee for each container they redeem for consumers – and rising costs were pushing many out of business. The Legislature took emergency action to increase payments to redemption centers, unanimously passing LD 134 despite significant opposition, and **Governor Mills** signed the emergency measure into law.



LD 1909: An Act to Modernize Maine’s Beverage Container Redemption Law

Sponsored by Rep. Allison Hepler

In addition to increasing payments to redemption centers, the Legislature modernized the Bottle Bill through LD 1909. The Environment and Natural Resources Committee synthesized stakeholder input through marathon work sessions and unanimously supported an amended bill that replaces sorting bottles by brand with sorting by material and size, a far less laborious process. The legislation also creates new positions in the Department of Environmental Protection to implement the law. Bill sponsor **Rep. Alison Hepler** and **Committee Chair Sen. Stacy Brenner** championed the bill, which sailed through the Legislature. Its funding was supported by the entire Appropriations Committee and the bill became law with **Governor Mills’** signature.



LD 1248: An Act to Ensure the Quality of Bottled Water

Sponsored by Rep. Lori Gramlich



Maine has been a national leader in addressing the persistent, toxic chemicals known as PFAS and this session’s focus was ensuring that all Mainers, regardless of income level, have access to safe drinking water. LD 1248 is first-in-the-nation legislation that requires companies that extract water in the state for the purpose of selling as bottled water to test that water for PFAS and to publicly disclose those results. It also prohibits companies from selling the bottled water if it tests above the drinking water standard for community water systems. The bill passed along party lines in the Health and Human Services Committee, with Democrats in favor and Republicans opposed. It was enacted without debate by the Legislature and was signed into law by **Governor Mills**.



LD 1591: An Act to Promote Economic Reuse of Contaminated Land Through Clean Energy Development

Sponsored by Sen. Stacy Brenner

LD 1591 prioritizes PFAS-contaminated farmland for solar siting, allowing impacted farmers to continue living on their land and providing a much needed source of revenue while helping the state to reach its renewable energy goals. The bill passed unanimously out of the Energy, Utilities, and Technology Committee, was enacted without debate by the Legislature, and became law with **Governor Mills’** signature.



LD 424: An Act to Lower the Environmental Impact of Consumers, Increase Food Safety, and Strengthen Consumer Choice by Ending the Ban on Single-use Plastic Shopping Bags

Sponsored by Rep. Chad Perkins

The failure of LD 424 was a victory for Maine’s plastic bag ban. In the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Democrats opposed the bill and Republicans supported it. In the Senate, Republican **Sens. Rick Bennett, Russell Black, Lisa Keim, and Matt Pouliot** voted with the Democrats in opposition to repealing the ban (24-9). In the House, the bill was voted down by the Democrats and supported by the Republicans (80-64).



LD 572: An Act to Remove the 5-cent Fee for Bags in Retail Stores

Sponsored by Rep. Michael Lemelin

This bill would have removed the 5¢ fee currently required when a retail establishment provides a recycled paper bag or a reusable plastic bag at the point of sale. In the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, the bill divided along party lines, with Democrats opposed and Republicans supportive. The bill was voted down in the House, 76-58, with all Democrats except **Rep. Sophie Warren** voting against it and all Republicans voting for it. In the Senate, the bill received only 7 votes. Republican **Sens. Rick Bennett, Russell Black, Lisa Keim, and Jeff Timberlake** voted with Senate Democrats.



MCV's Kathleen Meil spoke on a panel celebrating two years of Maine's climate action plan at Colby College on December 1, 2022.

Implementing Maine Won't Wait: A Four Year Plan for Climate Action

As the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future, the Governor's Energy Office, and state agencies including the Department of Environmental Protection work to implement the many initiatives flowing from [Maine Won't Wait](#), the Legislature continued to set in statute the goals and strategies of the state's climate action plan.

✔ **LD 1881: An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts to Protect Soils and Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat from Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws**

Sponsored by Rep. Scott Landry

Renewable energy development must be thoughtfully sited to avoid negative impacts on wildlife habitat and natural resources, including agricultural resources. LD 1881 encourages responsible siting and mitigates potential impacts by requiring developers to pay a compensation fee for new renewable energy development, including terrestrial solar and wind development and high impact electric transmission lines, impacting high-value farm soils and forests. A regulatory program will be set up to create flexibility desired by the regulated community and allow for the aggregation of funds across permits, which could result in better conservation measures overall. LD 1881 received bipartisan support in the Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee and was signed into law by **Governor Mills**.

✔ **LD 815: An Act to Provide Energy Efficiency Program Outreach and Assistance to Manufactured Housing Residents**

Sponsored by Rep. Cheryl Golek

LD 1815 directs the Maine State Housing Authority and Efficiency Maine Trust to provide education and outreach to low and moderate income residents of manufactured housing regarding energy efficiency programs administered by them. It also requires those entities to ensure that eligible residents of manufactured housing are offered access to grants and loans for weatherization and heat pumps for space heating through the energy efficiency programs. The bill was enacted without debate and signed into law by **Governor Mills**.



LD 1814: An Act to Reduce Mercury in the Environment by Phasing Out Certain Fluorescent Light Bulbs

Sponsored by Rep. Art Bell

To encourage the use of energy-efficient LED light bulbs, Maine will phase out the sale of compact and linear fluorescent mercury-added lamps by 2026. The bill received the support of all the Democrats and Republican **Rep. David Woodsome** in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, and of Republican **Sens. Rick Bennett, Russel Black, Jim Libby, and Matt Pouliot** in the Senate. The House enacted the bill without a roll call and it became law without the Governor's signature.



LD 881: Resolve, Directing the University of Maine System to Study the Barriers to Use of Cross-Laminated Timber

Sponsored by Rep. Sam Zager

Because trees sequester carbon from the atmosphere, innovative wood products like cross-laminated timber (CLT) are more climate-friendly than traditional building materials. LD 881 recognizes CLT's potential to modernize building practices and support Maine's forest products industry by reducing barriers to adoption and sending a positive market signal to companies looking to develop CLT manufacturing sites in our state. It received strong support in the Legislature and was signed into law by **Governor Mills**.



LD 924: Resolve, to Provide Legislative Approval of the Transmission Project Selected by the Public Utilities Commission Pursuant to the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program

Sponsored by Senate President Troy Jackson

In February, Maine's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) selected King Pine Wind to deliver 1000 megawatts of renewable electricity from Aroostook County, creating jobs and saving ratepayers money by weaning Maine off the volatile fossil fuel market. Legislative approval was required for the project's essential transmission infrastructure, and Republican **Sens. Trey Stewart, Matt Pouliot, and Marianne Moore** and **Reps. Austin Theriault, Caldwell Jackson, Tim Guerette, Mark Babin, and Roger Albert** joined almost all Democrats in supporting LD 924. (**Reps. Kathy Shaw, Scott Landry, and Jim Dill** were the Democratic exceptions.) LD 924 was signed into law by **Governor Mills**. The developer is now working with communities to determine the transmission line's route, which must then be approved by the PUC. MCV and our partners will be carefully tracking the planning and permitting process to ensure that Maine can derive maximum economic and climate benefits at minimum cost to the environment, wildlife, and local communities.

THE CLIMATE BUDGET

Maine has access to more than a billion dollars of federal resources for climate action from the transformational federal **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** and the **Inflation Reduction Act** – together the largest investments the country has ever made to address climate change. This allows Maine to allocate funds for . . .

Maine Communities



- The budget for Maine's Community Resilience Partnership Program – which over 140 cities, towns, and tribal governments have joined since 2021 – increased to \$3 million annually.
- Grants and technical support through the Community Resilience Partnership Program will help communities take action to prepare for climate impacts, increase efficiency, and transition to clean energy.

Maine Schools



- A new Green Schools Program and staff leadership at the Department of Education will support schools in using federal funds to invest in clean energy technology and energy efficiency projects, like clean school buses.
- \$20 million in new funding for the Department of Education's revolving loan fund will support energy efficiency projects and health and safety upgrades at Maine schools.

Resilient Infrastructure



- Investments in the State Infrastructure Adaptation Fund will support increasing climate resilience for Maine's infrastructure, from drinking water and wastewater systems to local transit and municipal culverts.
- \$36 million for Resilient Water Infrastructure Programs and \$400 million for the state's transportation systems will help leverage more than \$1.2 billion in federal funding for transportation infrastructure.

Climate Science & Monitoring



- Investments in the Offshore Wind Research Consortium will support scientists, state regulators, and fishermen to collaborate and understand offshore wind.
- \$80,000 for the Department of Environmental Protection will enhance coastal monitoring programs – crucially needed to respond to and manage climate impacts.

Energy Efficiency & Affordability



- A record \$70 million dollar state investment in energy-efficiency housing production, including an innovation fund that aims to improve housing density, a key climate strategy, will complement more than \$100 million in housing investments.
- A one-time \$15 million investment in the low-income assistance program will provide extra energy relief to electricity rate-payers who are facing record bills due to the high price of natural gas in New England.

Looking Ahead

More than 2,100 bills were introduced in 2023, putting the 131st Legislature on track to set a record for the most legislation considered by the end of next year's session. Historically, all ideas become bills in the first session, and legislative committees work to advance or reject almost all of them to meet strict guidelines about the number of bills that can be "carried over" to the second year. That was not the case in 2023, when a record 483 bills were carried over. The Legislature will continue work on these bills in 2024, as well as on any "emergency legislation" approved by the Legislative Council.



LD 2007: An Act to Advance Self-Determination for Wabanaki Nations

Sponsored by Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross

The movement for tribal self-determination continues to grow, and legislation to recognize the inherent sovereignty of Wabanaki Nations was introduced for the third time. (Because the 129th Legislature adjourned early due to COVID-19, it considered, but did not vote on, legislation to recognize tribal sovereignty. In the 130th Legislature, the House passed sovereignty legislation along party lines, but Governor Mills asked Democratic Senators to keep the bill from reaching her desk, threatening to veto the legislation altogether if it was enacted. The Senate complied and the bill was left unfinished when the Legislature adjourned.) **The Wabanaki – the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Mi'kmaq Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Penobscot Nation – are the original people of this place.** There is no better way to protect tribal lands and waters than to advance tribal self-determination, and the resilience and strength of Wabanaki leaders, elders, and citizens are unmatched.



To learn more about Wabanaki history, tribal sovereignty, and sign-up for the Wabanaki Alliance's email list, go to WabanakiAlliance.com.

You can also follow the Wabanaki Alliance on social media at:



@Wabanaki Alliance



@wabanaki.alliance



@WabanakiinMaine



LD 928: Pine Tree Amendment

Sponsored by Rep. Maggie O'Neil

Recognizing that our right to breathe clean air and drink clean water should be as fundamental as our right to vote, LD 928 proposes to enshrine the right to a clean and healthy environment in the Maine Constitution. Following a party-line committee vote, it was tabled in the House and carried over.

LD 1215: An Act to End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products.

Sponsored by Sen. Jill Duson

LD 1215 would end the sale of flavored tobacco products that attract kids and perpetuate tobacco use in Maine, which is already higher than the national average. In addition to well-documented health harms, high tobacco use degrades our environment: cigarette butts are among the most frequently littered items, and e-cigarette waste introduces toxic materials and flammable lithium-ion batteries into waterways, soil, and to wildlife. The bill passed the Senate 18-16 but did not receive a House vote and has been carried over.

Passed but Awaiting Funding

Most people assume that when the Legislature passes a bill, it has approved any necessary funding. This is not the case; the Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA) Committee must match up funding needs with the available budget, and many good and important bills die on the “appropriations table” when the often-opaque process is completed. This year, AFA opted to carry over a number of enacted bills, meaning there are still opportunities to advocate for legislation that was passed – but not funded – this year:



LD 993: An Act to Facilitate Stakeholder Input Regarding Forest Policy in Maine •

Sponsored by Rep. Maggie O’Neil

Maine forests absorb 60% of the state’s annual greenhouse gas emissions, support the \$8.5 billion forest products industry, and contribute to the \$3 billion recreational sector. LD 993 would create a Forest Advisory Board to convene diverse perspectives and advise the Maine Forest Service on policies to keep our forests healthy, intact, and productive.



LD 1156: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation • *Sponsored by Rep. Jess Fay*

Maine has the potential to lead the nation with multi-use trails that support activities that contribute to our economy, environment, and quality of life. LD 1156 proposes a \$30 million bond to provide grants to nonprofits, municipalities, and other divisions of government statewide to support non-motorized, motorized, and multi-use trails.



LD 1621: An Act Regarding Environmental Justice • *Sponsored by Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross*

LD 1621 supports meaningful community engagement and equitable decision-making to ensure that environmental policies are developed, implemented, and enforced in close partnership with the communities impacted “first and worst” by environmental and climate threats – those that have been historically underrepresented in policymaking.

LD 1817: An Act to Support Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program • *Sponsored by Sen. Stacy Brenner*

Outdoor education provides students with hands-on, interdisciplinary learning focused on science and environmental stewardship. LD 1817 recognizes these benefits and would fund one three-day, two-night outdoor school program for all Maine students.

LD 142: An Act to Fund Climate-related Service Work • *Sponsored by Rep. Morgan Rielly*

This bill provides ongoing funds to support the Maine Climate Corps Program, including four leadership positions and 50 eligible participants.

LD 1006: An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing • *Sponsored by Rep. Bill Pluecker*

LD 1006 would require the state to provide free well water testing for PFAS to low-income Mainers.

LD 1488: An Act to Expand Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Private Drinking Water Well • *Sponsored by Rep. Laurie Osher*

LD 1488 would require that landlords who have tenants on residential wells test those wells for PFAS and other contaminants and disclose the results to their tenants.



"Maine Conservation Voters staff are committed to protecting the environment for all of us. I am inspired by their enthusiasm to safeguard Maine people and wild places. I share their values and trust MCV to equitably address the climate crisis, protect our democracy, and give back to nature."

—Thara Kumarage
MCV Member
 Augusta, ME



"I firmly believe in grassroots activism. I am honored to support an organization that provides education, legislator accountability, and a sense of pride for Maine's natural environment for generations to come."

—Kyle Arthenayake
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 Waterville, ME

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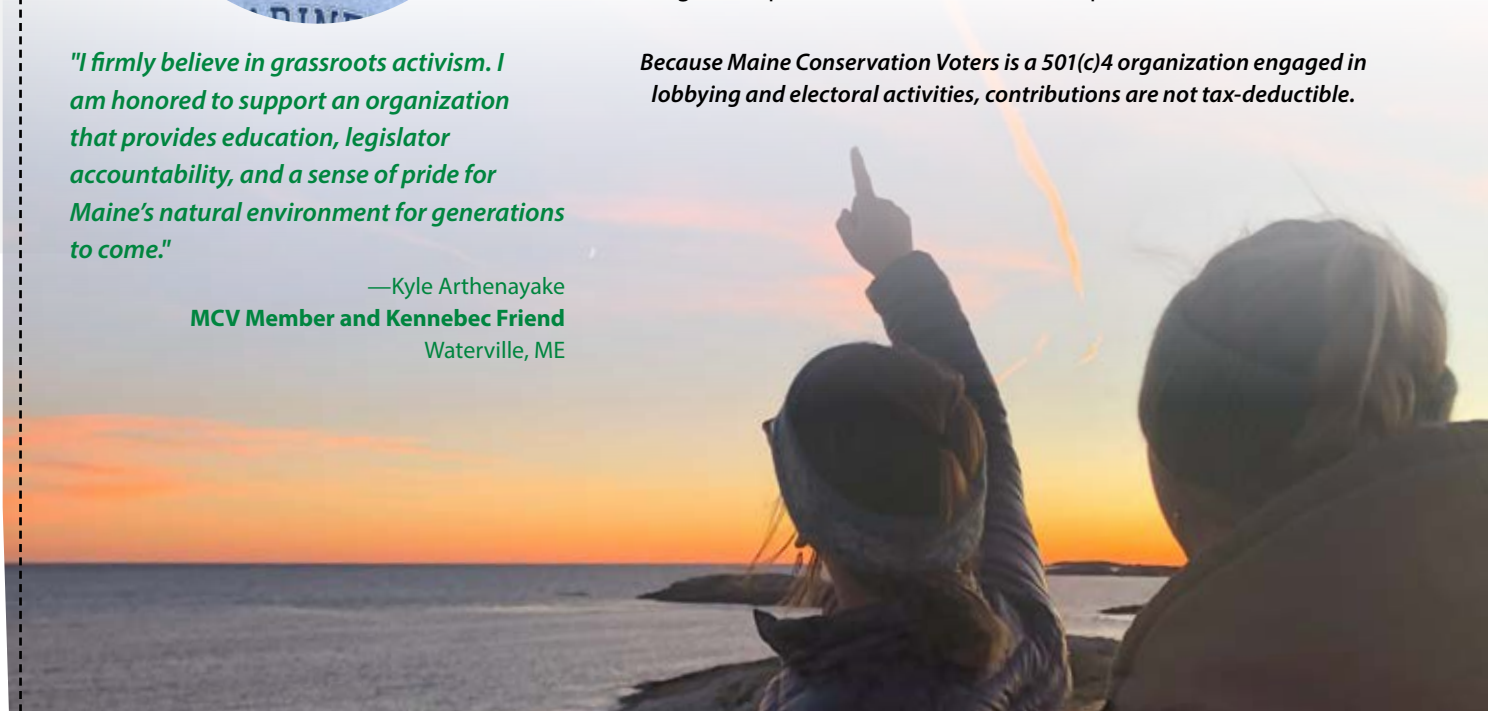
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Augusta, ME 04330
207-620-8811 / www.maineconservation.org

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