



Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition 2013 Common Environmental Agenda



Further Protect Pregnant Women and Children from Toxic Chemicals *Sponsored by Sen. Seth Goodall*

This bill will ensure we make progress on chemicals reform by requiring major food manufacturers to disclose their use of BPA in their food packaging by removing an exemption in Maine law; Providing more information to parents and businesses about which products contain Chemicals of High Concern; and creating an action plan to get the worst toxic chemicals out of products when safer and affordable alternatives are available.



Open the St. Croix River to River Herring *Sponsored by Representative Madonna Soctomah*

This bill would reopen fish passage to alewives, also known as river herring, at two dams on the St. Croix River. Since the fish passages were closed in 1995, the alewife population has declined from more than 2.6 million fish to less than a thousand within a few years. Alewives are a critical food source for salmon, striped bass, bluefish, tuna, cod and haddock. Allowing alewives to access their native spawning habitat is key to bringing back Maine's once prosperous ground fishing industry.



Protect Water Quality and Avoid Taxpayer Clean-up Costs from Metallic Mineral Mines

Sponsored by Representative Jeff McCabe

This bill amends the mining law passed last year to make it more protective of Maine's waters and fairer to Maine taxpayers. It strengthens water quality standards and provides safeguards to prevent Maine taxpayers from paying cleanup costs of abandoned mines. The bill requires that mines be designed so that they do not require water treatment for more than 10 years after closure.



Oppose Roll Back of Rules Protecting Wild Brook Trout

Maine has been identified as "the last true stronghold for native brook trout," but a bill this session proposes to overrule rules designed to protect important wild brook trout lakes. The potential introduction of non-native baitfish species threatens these special waters.

A note on increased investment in energy efficiency:

LD 1426, An Act To Improve Maine's Economy and Lower Energy Costs Through Energy Efficiency, sponsored by Senator Jim Boyle, was one of four priority bills of the Environmental Priorities Coalition this session. Increased investment in energy efficiency would improve Maine's economy, cut energy costs, create jobs and reduce pollution. LD 1426 provided much-needed resources and support for Maine's energy efficiency programs. However, the bill was added, with a number of other pieces of energy legislation, to a larger "omnibus" energy bill. While the omnibus bill includes big advances for energy efficiency, RGGI reform, and non-transmission alternatives to new electric transmission lines, it also contains provisions that some groups believe are unacceptable because they could increase the region's dependence on natural gas from hydraulic fracturing well into the future. Because member groups reached different conclusions about the bill as a whole, the bill will not be a priority of the EPC. The bill will head to the floor of the Legislature for a vote in the coming weeks.



Trail Map to Prosperity

Maine's beautiful environment is the foundation of our prosperity and our way of life. It is part of our history and part of our future. It is the basis for how we work, how we relax, and how we sustain ourselves and our families.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine's economy can thrive.

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 28 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides for all of us.

350 Maine
Appalachian Mountain Club
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Environment Maine
ENE
Friends of Casco Bay
Maine Audubon
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Congress of Lake Associations
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited
Maine Interfaith Power & Light
Maine Conservation Alliance
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Rivers
Maine Wilderness Guides Organization
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
Product Policy Institute of Maine
RESTORE: The North Woods
Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
The Ocean Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Toxics Action Center

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