



2016 Environmental Priorities Overview

Proactive Priorities



Protect Maine's Natural Resources by Investing in our Forests, Farms, and Fish

The Land for Maine's Future program (LMF) partners with landowners, municipalities, and state agencies to support local economies through conservation projects. LD 1454 will provide funding to protect working farms, forests, and waterfronts and build essential infrastructure to help preserve Maine's unique character, support ecotourism, and grow businesses. *Sponsored by Rep. Jeff McCabe – Resolution: Success – Under pressure from his caucus, the Governor released the 2010 Bond.*



Pass the New Comprehensive Bill to Reduce Barriers and Lower the Cost of Solar

Maine is the only state in New England without a comprehensive solar policy, and we lag behind in solar installations and jobs being created. This initiative would ramp-up solar installations, increasing the amount of energy produced by ten-fold over five years, creating 800 new jobs, and reducing electricity rates for all Mainers. *Sponsored by Rep. Sara Gideon – Resolution: Amended bill was passed in the House 91-56 and in the Senate unanimously. The Governor vetoed the bill and the House failed to override by two votes.*



Reconnect Fish & Wildlife Habitat, Create Jobs, Protect Roads, and Improve Public Safety

Many Maine culverts are old, ineffective, and risky. LD 1069 will prepare communities for extreme weather events, strengthen Maine's long-term economic base and competitive advantage, create and preserve jobs, and reduce future costs by avoiding emergency replacements during large storms or water main breaks during spring thaw. *Sponsored by Rep. Jeff McCabe – Resolution: The Culvert Bond was tabled and died. The only bonds that were voted on and passed by agreement were regarding transportation and research and development.*

Defensive Priorities



Keep RGGI Working to Lower Energy Costs for Businesses – Reject LD 1398

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is an effective 9-state program that reduces climate pollution while lowering energy costs and improving Maine's economy. LD 1398 would slash RGGI funding for energy efficiency programs. Cutting energy efficiency support for businesses means less capital investment in Maine, fewer jobs, and a less competitive economy. *Governor's Bill – Resolution: Success – The bill was amended to neutralize the negative impact, maintaining energy efficiency funding. Then, the Governor vetoed the bill, but the veto was overridden.*



Protect Maine's Oil Spill Reporting System – Reject LD 1494

Maine has an excellent oil spill reporting incentive in place that encourages people to call DEP to report spills before it's too late to prevent environmental damage. LD 1494 would get rid of Maine's simple and effective spill reporting incentive and replace it with a complex set of exemptions favored by the oil industry. *Sponsored by Rep. Robert Duchesne – Resolution: Success – The bill received an 11-2 Ought Not to Pass vote in committee and died.*



Defend Municipal Rights to Limit the Use of Pesticides – Reject LD 1543

Maine communities should be able to decide whether to limit the use of harmful pesticides to protect the public's health. LD 1543 attacks "home rule," and prevents towns from taking steps to reduce citizen exposure to harmful pesticides, invalidates current local ordinances, and requires the creation of costly new boards to oversee local ordinances. *Sponsored by Rep. Jeffrey Timberlake – Resolution: Success – The bill was tabled early in the session; it never received a hearing and died.*



Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition

is a partnership of 31 environmental, conservation and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and way of life that our environment provides.

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 communities can thrive

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