

02/09/2021

To: Labor and Housing Committee

From: Mary Rebecca Ferguson

Re: Testimony in Support of L.D. 99

I am writing as a youth climate activist and member of Maine Youth For Climate Justice to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on L.D. 99. As a young person, I am very concerned for my future and the future of generations to come who will be living through an extreme climate crisis if we don’t act soon. It is crucial that we transition to renewable energy as quickly as possible to combat climate change. This is the only viable path forward. It is no longer a safe or responsible option to invest in fossil fuels and current and future investments will continue to decrease in value. Additionally, money invested in fossil fuels could be redirected to fund the climate transition. We could use these funds to provide hundreds of millions of dollars in investment for clean energy in our state. Most importantly, it is morally wrong to invest in a source of energy that has harmed and continues to harm the environment and frontline communities that are most directly impacted by resource extraction and the consequences it creates. Maine PERS members shouldn’t have to be part of a system that is complicit in the climate crisis and responsible for severe environmental injustices.

I implore you to consider the intense destruction fossil fuel investments have both on the environment and futures of young people like me who will be living with the consequences.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Rebecca Ferguson