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LD 1682 - An Act To Require Consideration of Climate and Equity Impacts by the Public Utilities Commission

**Committee on Energy, Utilities, and
Technology, May 12, 2021**

Honorable Committee Chairs Senator Lawrence & Representative Berry and Members of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on [LD 1682 - An Act To Require Consideration of Climate and Equity Impacts by the Public Utilities Commission](#)

I am speaking on behalf of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN). As people of faith we know that it is a moral imperative to take action on issues of climate change and the impact it has on the people and industries of Maine. It is a matter of environmental justice. The Maine Climate Council Action Plan gives strong guidance in this direction and even has an Equity Subcommittee. This is an inspiration, a moral and ethical guide and an absolute necessity.

LD 1682 makes it possible for the PUC to participate in moving our state forward in meeting the goals of the Maine Climate Council Action Plan. The PUC needs to be empowered to do more than keep energy rates low and ensure a reliable supply of energy for the state as it allows utilities the privilege of earning a profit on their businesses. They must, from now on, include climate considerations as a primary focus in their decisions.

The PUC carries a lot of weight in the future of our move to clean energy. They must have every possible tool to make sound decisions regarding mitigation of climate change. Such considerations must be in the forefront of their decision making. This bill will give them the tools they need to serve the people of Maine with purpose and integrity towards reducing our state's carbon footprint and taking leadership in this crucial issue that impacts our future so profoundly.

Thank you for considering my concerns and those of MUUSAN. This is not only a matter of good business and following the state Climate Council Action Plan, it impacts the future of my grandchildren, and yours. If you have further questions, you can contact me, Marylyn Wentworth, at 207-602-0245 or marylyn.wentworth@tnsk.org

