

## LD 1 Testimony

Good day Senator Courtney, Representative McKane and members of the Joint Select Committee on Regulatory Fairness and Reform;

My name is Sean Mahoney and I am the director of the Conservation Law Foundation here in Maine. We have been following the progress of the Governor's proposal for making significant changes to Maine's environmental laws and regulations with great interest, particularly the source of those changes. Changes of such significance should be done in a transparent and open manner. To that end, I want to thank you for the public hearings you have held over the last two weeks and urge you to hold subsequent public hearings once there is specific language for this bill. The people of Maine deserve no less.

To the extent that the proposals from the Governor's office address procedural frustrations and aim to increase the efficiency of how our environmental laws and regulations are implemented, CLF stands ready to work with the Governor and this Committee. But to the extent that the proposals seek to revive the false choice of strong environmental protections or a vibrant economy, we will stand firmly against them. The fact is that a thriving and sustainable Maine economy is predicated on our stewardship of the natural resources that are the source of both longstanding and brand new industries and that draws people to this State to live, work and recreate in.

As you work on the specifics for LD 1, we ask that you focus on the issues that Maine people care about. Maine people aren't calling for the repeal of chemical protection laws or the gutting of the product stewardship laws. They are calling for ways to get off expensive oil to heat their homes, for better use of scarce dollars for transportation alternatives, for air quality that doesn't trigger asthma attacks and water quality that continues to meet the goals laid out by Senator Muskie four decades ago, and for sustainable methods of fishing, farming and forestry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.