

Climate change is one of the most critical and urgent issues of our time. As a young person, I am seriously concerned with the worsening effects of the climate crisis that are impacting our world today, and the impact it will have on the future of the planet. I have grown up climbing trees and mountains, swimming in the ocean and running around in my backyard. I want future generations to be able to have these same experiences. To be outside without fear of harm from dangerously hot temperatures. To have a forest to play in that isn't destroyed by wildfires. To be able to spend time on the coast that hasn't been flooded by the rising sea levels. In order to protect this future and mitigate current impacts, it is crucial that the world acts now to address the climate crisis on the timescale and level that science and justice requires. I therefore urge you to adopt the Advanced Clean Trucks Program to help Maine do its part in tackling the climate crisis.

The trucking industry is a leading source of air pollutants including Nitrous Oxide and particulates that can create smog and have serious health impacts, as well as greenhouse gasses which exacerbate the climate crisis. In fact, trucks and buses, which make up 5% of vehicles in Maine, produce 27% of the state's greenhouse gasses. By shifting to zero-emission trucks, vans and buses, the state can drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions from those vehicles. Additionally, the measure will promote climate justice by reducing the impacts of other harmful emissions from trucks, which often disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color. Already, companies have shown interest in electric trucks and in investing in the development of electric vehicles. I urge you to continue this movement toward cleaner transportation to help mitigate this climate crisis by adopting the Advanced Clean Trucks Program.

- Audrey Hufnagel, Damariscotta