



Who: Maine Climate Protectors

What: Seeking people to testify (or submit written testimony) in support of a petition for rulemaking filed with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection on January 24, 2018

When: April, 2018. Exact date, time, and location are yet to be determined.

Why: To reduce Maine's greenhouse gas emissions 8 percent per year in order to meet a statutory goal established in 2003 by 38 M.R.S.A. § 576(3)

On January 24, 2018, a coalition of youth, environmental advocacy organizations (including 350 Maine, Citizens Climate Lobby, Conservation Law Foundation, and Our Children's Trust), and other concerned citizens filed a *petition for rulemaking* with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Petitioners brought this action to ensure that the climate remains stable enough to maintain their and their posterity's fundamental and unalienable rights to a livable future in Maine, which includes a healthy atmosphere and stable climate system.

The petition, signed by 696 registered voters of the State of Maine and 50 youth petitioners, asks DEP to adopt new rules and modify existing rules regulating greenhouse gas emissions.

The proposed rules seek greenhouse gas emission reductions of *at least* 8 percent each year, which correlates to Maine reducing its emissions to approximately 75 percent below 2003 levels by the year 2035 (Maine's greenhouse gas emissions peaked in 2003). This goal is grounded in science¹ and is necessary in order to meet the requirements of **38 M.R.S.A. § 576(3)**, which established a goal of **reducing greenhouse gas emissions "sufficient to eliminate any dangerous threat to the climate."** The statute specifically describes attaining this goal through "reduction to 75% to 80% below 2003 levels."

The proposed rule changes would:

- Establish emissions standards for greenhouse gas emissions from air contaminant sources, including (1) stationary sources, other than power plants, with the potential to emit greenhouse gas emissions (biogenic plus non-biogenic) equal to or above 10,000 tons per year CO₂e and (2) vehicle fleets of automobiles and/or trucks registered in the state of Maine with the potential to emit 5,000 tons per year CO₂e;
- Modify Department of Environmental Protection regulations reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases from other currently regulated sources in compliance with the reduction goals of the Climate Change Act, 38 M.R.S §§ 576-579; and
- Establish emissions standards for sulfur hexafluoride from gas-insulated switchgear operators.

¹ James Hansen et al., *Assessing "Dangerous Climate Change": Required Reduction of Carbon Emissions to Protect Young People, Future Generations and Nature*, PLOS ONE 8:12, 1, 5, 10, 17-18 (2013); James Hansen et al., *Ice Melt, Sea Level Rise and Superstorms; Evidence from Paleoclimate Data, Climate Modeling, and Modern Observations that 2 °C Global Warming Could be Dangerous*, Atmos. Chem. & Phys. 16, 3761, 3801 (2016); James Hansen et al., *Young people's burden: requirement of negative CO₂ emissions*, Earth Syst. Dynam. 8, 577-616 (2017).

Public hearing:

We have been told by our contact at DEP that a notice of public hearing will be published in late March. The public hearing will be approximately three weeks later. We are seeking individuals to speak at the hearing and/or to submit written testimony on a broad range of climate change issues, including:

- Health implications
- Economic impacts, e.g., on commercial fisheries, farming, forestry, aquaculture, winter sports
- Economic opportunities, e.g., solar, wind, heat pumps, tidal
- Ecological impacts
- Faith/moral perspective
- Impact on youth

For more information—and to read a copy of the petition—visit www.maine-climate-protectors.org or email maineclimateprotectors@gmail.com