



For Immediate Release

January 22, 2018

Contacts:

Beth Valentine, 207-252-9179 bethfullervalentine@gmail.com

Sarah Lachance, 207-459-0419, sarah@350maine.org

To set up interviews with youth participants, please contact
Chuck Spanger, 207-232-3135, charlesspanger@gmail.com

Maine Youth to Deliver Climate Change Petition to Protect Their Futures

What: On Wednesday, a coalition of voters and some of Maine's youngest citizens will file a climate change petition for rulemaking with the state's Department of Environmental Protection, demanding that Maine protect their futures.

The coalition, who call themselves the "Maine Climate Protectors", argue that the Department has statutory, public trust, and constitutional obligations to protect Maine's essential natural resources, including the atmosphere, for present and future generations. Maine has a 15-year-old law that set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions "sufficient to eliminate any dangerous threat to the climate". Yet, Maine has not developed rules to satisfy this statutory duty.

In a spirited, art-filled celebration rally, a group of Maine youth of all ages will speak their minds on the importance of acting decisively to prevent the most dangerous impacts of climate change. A member of the Maine bar will address how the petition creates a path to achieve the goals set forth in the law.

From there, the youth petitioners and their supporters will head to Maine DEP's office on Canco Street in Portland to deliver the petition, which is signed by over 600 registered Maine voters from approximately 116 communities.

When: Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 2:30-3:30

Where: [Portland City Hall](#) (State of Maine Room) 389 Congress Street

and at 4:00, [Maine Department of Environmental Protection](#), 312 Canco Road, #4

Who: Maine voters and youth petitioners along with Maine Climate Protectors, 350 Maine, Citizens Climate Lobby, and Conservation Law Foundation in partnership with Our Children's Trust

[350 Maine](#) is a grassroots movement dedicated to solving the planetary climate crisis. We grow our power collectively to find real and lasting solutions, to end our dependence on fossil fuels, and to build a healthy, sustainable life for people and the planet. 350 Maine believes that Maine holds a unique position in this global movement as a gateway to coastal waters and foreign markets. Maine also has abundant fresh water and the largest contiguous forest east of the Mississippi River; ecosystems that must be protected.

[Citizens' Climate Lobby](#) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization with hundreds of chapters across the world working to create the political will for a livable world. There are seven active chapters in Maine, as well as two developing chapters. Each chapter empowers people to experience breakthroughs exercising their personal and political power.

[Conservation Law Foundation](#) is a non-profit, member-supported public interest advocacy organization that is dedicated to solving environmental problems that threaten the people, communities and natural resources of New England, including Maine, where many of its members reside. Conservation Law Foundation has a longstanding commitment to advocating for the right of Maine citizens to clean air and clean water, and for fighting to cut carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that are damaging our climate, causing bigger and more extreme storms, changing our growing seasons and warming our oceans.

[Our Children's Trust](#) is a nonprofit organization, leading a coordinated global human rights and environmental justice campaign to implement enforceable science-based Climate Recovery Plans that will return atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations to below 350 ppm by the year 2100. We elevate the voice of youth, those with most to lose in the climate crisis, to secure the legal right to a healthy atmosphere and stable climate on behalf of all present and future generations.