



LD 1662: An Act to Improve Maine's Air Quality and Reduce Regional Haze at Acadia National Park and Other Class 1 Areas

Reduce Air Pollution in Maine

Maine's air quality is one of our environmental jewels. It keeps our families healthy, draws tourists and supports our economy.

Sulfur pollution from burning fossil fuels harms air quality for Maine people—especially for kids and the elderly.

- Air quality is a significant problem in Maine. Maine has one of the highest rates of lung disease, affecting more than 120,000 citizens including children with asthma.
- At least \$150 million in health costs are incurred every year in Maine as a result of lung disease.
- Pollution from fossil fuel burning, including sulfur and particulate matter has been linked with cardiovascular disease, respiratory illness, emergency room visits, and premature death.
- Less pollution is good news for everyone who breathes.



Sulfur pollution is a major contributor to “regional haze” which significantly reduces visibility and visitor enjoyment at some of Maine's key tourism destinations.

- Tourism is Maine's largest employer, and it relies on visitors to places such as Acadia National Park, one of the most visited national parks in the country with 2 million visitors.
- High sulfur levels in heating fuel reduce the visibility of Maine's celebrated vistas. Ammonium sulfate causes more than 50 percent of regional visibility impairment in this part of the country.
- Visitors to national parks and wilderness areas consistently rank visibility and clear scenic vistas as one of the most important aspects of their experience. Yet the average visual range is less than one-fifth of the range that would exist under natural conditions.



Photo: Read Brugger

Reducing sulfur content in heating oil and other fossil fuels will help improve air quality... and could save us money.

- Reducing sulfur content in heating oil will allow Maine homeowners to use more efficient furnaces and boilers, which can reduce heating costs in the long-run.
- Maine has already made the switch to ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel for our cars and trucks.

Switching to ultra-low sulfur heating oil will take time but we must start now.

- This bill requires lower sulfur limits in heating oil and similar fossil fuels to be phased in from 2014-2018. This gives producers and distributors the time they need to make the transition.
- Maine is working with the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states to pursue a coordinated course of action as part of our strategy to comply with the Federal Clean Air Act.
- Every year we delay, costs Maine people in greater respiratory illness and fewer clean air days.

Pass the Air Quality & Haze bill and help clean up Maine's air for our people and places

For information, please contact Dylan Voorhees at dylan@nrcm.org or 207-430-0112, or Michelle Edwards at medwards@lungme.org or 207-624-0304.



Improve Air Quality for the Health of Maine People & Places

LD 1662: An Act to Improve Maine's Air Quality and Reduce Regional Haze at Acadia National Park and Other Class 1 Areas is supported by the:

Environmental Priorities Coalition

We are 26 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations who have joined together for a sixth consecutive year around a Common Environmental Agenda. We represent over 100,000 members in Maine who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides for all of us.

Coalition partners include:

American Lung Association in Maine
Appalachian Mountain Club
Atlantic Salmon Federation
Bicycle Coalition of Maine
Conservation Law Foundation
Environmental Health Strategy Center
Environment Maine
Environment Northeast
Friends of Casco Bay
Maine Audubon
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Congress of Lake Associations
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited
Maine Conservation Voters Education Fund
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Rivers
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Northern Forest Alliance
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter
RESTORE: The North Woods
Sierra Club, Maine Chapter
The Ocean Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Toxics Action Center