

Late-Breaking EPC Priority

OPPOSE PROHIBITIONS ON LOCAL CLEAN ENERGY ACTION

LD 894 will block community leadership on climate & clean energy goals and undermine home rule.

Communities are leading the way toward meeting Maine's bold and binding climate action goals.

- Through bipartisan 2019 legislation, Maine set ambitious clean energy targets in statute, including installing at least 100,000 heat pumps by 2025; putting 41,000 electric vehicles on the road by 2025 and 219,000 by 2030; and developing a long-term plan to phase in modern, energy-efficient building codes to reach net-zero carbon emissions for new construction by 2024.
- Across Maine towns and cities, residents and local leaders are diligently working on strategies to accelerate our progress toward these goals. Community initiatives to reduce energy bills and indoor air pollution through beneficial electrification are already helping Maine people trade the volatile market of dirty fossil fuels for safer and more stable alternatives such as electric heat pumps and electric vehicles.
- These efforts are aligned with climate and clean energy targets articulated in *Maine Won't Wait*, the State's four-year plan for climate action. Equally important in our home rule state, these efforts reflect the will of the people.

LD 894 would block community leadership on clean energy goals and preempt local control, a cherished feature of Maine democracy.

- If it becomes law, LD 894 would prevent municipalities from being able to enact ordinances to phase out new gas hook-ups, gas-powered lawn care equipment, and gas stoves; restrict the state's stretch code from moving toward electrified buildings; and block the transition to electric vehicles. Communities across Maine are already embracing initiatives like these because they've determined that beneficial electrification is in their best interest.
- LD 894 aims to preempt this local leadership with "energy choice" legislation espoused by the fossil fuel industry to preserve its profits and protect its increasingly stranded assets. Nearly identical legislation has already been adopted in 20 states.



Maine municipalities understand community needs better than the fossil fuel industry does.

- Local governments are often at the forefront of community resilience, responding nimbly to public and environmental health challenges and piloting initiatives -- like innovative clean energy programs and net-zero stretch codes -- that create a roadmap for the rest of the state.
- Restricting this local leadership stymies progress, perpetuates health and economic risks, and threatens Maine's ability to meet statutory climate targets.

Oppose LD 894. Protect local control and climate leadership.

For more information, please contact
Beth Ahearn, Maine Conservation Voters, at (207) 671-5071 or beth@maineconservation.org

Environmental Priorities Coalition

Maine's **Environmental Priorities Coalition** is a partnership of 37 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 120,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that our environment provides.

We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to protect Maine's extraordinary environment so all Maine people and Maine communities can thrive.

