



Environmental  
Priorities  
Coalition

# 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL  
PRIORITIES

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition (EPC) is an inclusive statewide alliance of 34 conservation, climate action, and public health organizations. Each year we collectively identify a slate of policy priorities to act on the climate crisis, further environmental justice, protect land, water, and wildlife, and cultivate healthy Maine communities.



## LD 2007: Recognize Tribal Self-Determination

The Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 established a different, more restrictive status for the Wabanaki Nations in Maine than that of all 570 other federally-recognized tribes in the United States. A bipartisan task force recommended changes to restore the Nations' inherent rights, including rights to regulate hunting, fishing, natural resources, and land use on tribal lands, as allowed by federal law. **Restoring Wabanaki self-determination has strong bipartisan support.**



## LD 1621: Advance Environmental Justice for All

In Maine and across the world, climate change and environmental concerns pose the greatest threats to communities that are already marginalized, overburdened, or underserved. Adopting environmental justice definitions and practices that reflect Maine's unique situations and communities will ensure that we equitably pursue and achieve our environmental and climate mandates, and that impacted communities are able to fairly participate in the process. **The Legislature passed LD 1621 last year and placed it on the special appropriations table. Full funding is essential to advancing environmental justice.**



## LD 993: Secure the Future of Forests in Maine

Because they are big and largely unfragmented, forests in Maine have an outsized role to play in mitigating and adapting to climate change and in ensuring continued biodiversity. A Forest Advisory Board would bring together a variety of viewpoints to share information, facilitate public input, look at the forest comprehensively, and advise the Maine Forest Service on policies to keep our forests healthy, intact, and productive. **The Legislature passed LD 993 last year and placed it on the special appropriations table with a modest \$5,000 fiscal note. Full funding is essential to securing the future of forests in Maine.**

For more information, please contact  
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### **LD 2077: Rethink Natural Gas to Protect Health, Climate, and Ratepayers**

Maine's fracked gas distribution system threatens our climate goals and public health. LD 2077 would direct the state to investigate the costs to gas customers of gas system expansion; impacts to health and indoor air quality of fossil fuel combustion; and opportunities to redeploy Maine's existing gas infrastructure and workforce into geothermal heat districts. **It would also protect gas customers by limiting natural gas expansion and cost.**



### **LD 1215: End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products**

Flavored tobacco products threaten communities' public health and pollute waterways and wildlife. The tobacco industry has used flavored tobacco for decades to target vulnerable and marginalized communities. The tobacco industry's carbon emissions equal one-fifth of the airline industry's annual emissions and are a major source of plastic pollution. Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products will reduce youth addiction and environmental waste. **LD 1215 was passed by the Senate last year and is on the House calendar.**



### **LD 1537: Protect Maine's Landmark PFAS Products Law**

In 2021, lawmakers passed LD 1503, the first in the world ban of PFAS in products, to protect Maine communities. Corporations are now pushing to dismantle this important law. In an effort to address some concerns while retaining the integrity of the law, LD 1537 amends current law to ban the use of PFAS in several product categories before the 2030 deadline to ease the administrative burden and exempts those product categories from reporting requirements. Despite these compromises, industry is lobbying to further weaken Maine's commitment to phasing out PFAS. **LD 1537 is a carry-over bill, which gives us limited time to push back against these attacks.**

