

Dear Aroostook County Delegation Members:

First let me say that we sincerely appreciate you all taking the time to participate on our weekly calls. We understand that you're extremely busy with many important issues on your plate and so the time we have to spend with you each week is very much appreciated.

I'd like to bring your attention to one bill at this point, **LD 1333** "*An Act to Establish Climate and Energy Planning in Maine*" as proposed by Speaker Pingree. We appreciate Representative Martin's comments on the bill this afternoon; however because of its negative impacts on most new development LEAD is opposed to this legislation.

The majority "Ought to Pass as Amended" report on L.D. 1333 would require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) to establish greenhouse gas (GHG) emission requirements for all development projects that require a permit or license under Maine's Site Location of Development laws. This would apply to residential subdivisions, commercial developments (schools, hospitals, municipal buildings, etc.) and industrial expansions. Production processes would be exempt, but new roads, warehouse buildings, and clearing activities at an existing industrial plant may not be exempt.

Under this proposal, if the DEP determines that a project will result in "unreasonable" greenhouse gas emissions, the DEP may seek additional compensation (fees) from the applicant before approving a project. The DEP may require a 'greenhouse gas compensation fee' if the GHG emissions are unavoidable. The legislation does not specify the amount of the GHG compensation fee, and it does not cap the new fee, adding to the uncertainty around this new regulation.

While it is admirable to keep Maine as pristine as possible and to take an active stance on "greenhouse" gas causes now, and in the future, any such legislation has to also look at economic ramifications to Maine's already fragile business climate. Legislation also has to look at precise, definable, realistic goals in order for such legislation to stand a chance of being successful for all Mainers.

Adding burdensome developmental costs that are not quantitative and qualitative can only complicate Maine's business climate and add to its negative (real or imagined) business climate and will negatively impact investment in the state. This requirement for an analysis of the carbon footprint of a proposed development has the potential to be very expensive, certainly complicated and at the very least, controversial and will send the wrong signal to businesses looking at Maine and Aroostook county as a place to locate.

It is with this in mind that the LEAD Board of Directors must voice its opposition to LD 1333 and encourage you to vote no on LD 1333.

In closing let me say that we applaud all of the hard work and time put in at the legislature and appreciate your commitment during these very trying times in Augusta.

Sincerely,

Nate Berry
President
LEAD