

June 25, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

On behalf of the 53 undersigned organizations, businesses, and community leaders representing hundreds of thousands of Maine residents, we urge you to do everything in your power to protect vital programs that are under attack in the Senate Reconciliation Bill.

As a whole, the reconciliation bill passed by the House last month is bad for Maine, and the Senate version, as it stands, is no better. The provisions laid out in the bill would strip access to affordable healthcare from thousands of Mainers, raise energy costs for families and businesses, threaten public health and environmental protections, divest from life-saving weather, resilience, and research programs, reduce access to and protection of public lands, and open up “pay-to-play” opportunities for polluters.

Throughout your tenures as U.S. Senators, you have pledged to do what’s best for Mainers. Your commitment to bipartisanship and upholding the lawful processes and responsibilities of Congress has made you trusted, influential members of the Senate. Maine people are counting on you to do what you’ve done before: protect and advocate for Maine’s working families, natural resources, and public health.

From healthcare providers to business owners, conservationists to labor unions, community leaders to farmers, we implore you to advocate for the removal of the following provisions which threaten Maine’s public health, economy, natural resources, access to education, and the safety of our communities. While the priorities listed below cover a range of issues, we are united in our belief that each one is critical to the health of our environment, economy, and people, and Maine cannot thrive unless every piece is present.

Protect Healthy Communities

Access to affordable health care, including reproductive and preventative care, is a cornerstone to a free, equal society. The cuts to Medicaid proposed in the bill would strip health coverage from approximately 50,000 Mainers. Older Mainers, veterans, people with disabilities, and people experiencing homelessness would be among those most affected. Additionally, blocking patients on Medicaid from choosing Planned Parenthood as their provider limits access to affordable, often life-saving reproductive, primary, and behavioral health care.

A loss of federal funding adds additional strain on Maine’s already fragile healthcare system, putting hospitals and providers - especially in rural communities - at greater risk of closure.

The bill also includes sweeping attacks on federal agencies and their ability to set and maintain regulations that protect public health and the environment. Federal regulations exist to protect people's health and the environment around them. They are based in science, guided by legislation passed by Congress, drafted by career experts, and incorporate public input before being finalized. Without them, Maine's clean air and water are at risk.

Protect Maine's Economy

This bill would fully repeal popular, job-creating, cost-saving policies that have helped the U.S. to produce more energy from clean sources like solar and wind. Revoking these investments will slow Maine's progress on developing home-grown renewable energy, lead to increased energy bills for Maine households and businesses, make it more expensive to reduce energy usage, and kill thousands of existing and future jobs.

The bill also rescinds unobligated funds for National Park Service and public lands conservation. Access to nature is a value shared by Maine residents and visitors alike, whether for hunting and fishing, recreation, industry, education, or simply passing on an appreciation of the outdoors to the next generation. Maine's economy is inextricably linked to our environment, and industries such as fishing, tourism, farming, and outdoor recreation are deeply rooted in the state's natural resources. Investing in the protection, maintenance, and conservation of Maine's public lands is crucial to the preservation of these industries and future generations.

Protect Investments in our Future

Cuts to NOAA research and coastal resiliency programs and the National Weather Service will threaten the safety of coastal communities and Maine fishermen, who rely on reliable weather forecasts. Programs that track and communicate vital information like weather patterns and air pollution will lose funding and staff capacity, putting lives and communities at risk.

The reconciliation bill also weakens the National Environmental Policy Act, making it easier to increase fossil fuel production and exacerbate the worst effects of climate change. These "pay-to-play" provisions allow project developers to pay a fee for expedited environmental and judicial reviews and limit opportunity for public input, bypassing long standing rules and processes rooted in science and demonstrating a clear prioritization of profit over planet.

Finally, the bill threatens the ability of Maine colleges and universities to conduct cutting-edge research and educate students. Changes to the endowment tax could impact the financial stability of some private colleges and universities, affecting their research capacity and stifling collaborations with the private sector in critical research areas, while changes to the eligibility requirements for Pell grants would make higher education less affordable and accessible for low-income students.

Senators Collins and King, you have an opportunity to change this bill - to eliminate the worst of its provisions - before it goes to the floor for a vote. We are counting on you to speak publicly against the harm this bill would cause and to protect the health of our communities, our economy, and our future. If these provisions are not removed, we respectfully request that you vote against this bill and work to convince your colleagues to do the same.

Will you fight for Maine?

Sincerely,

Alliance of Maine Health Professionals for
Climate Alliance
Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments
Appalachian Mountain Club
Bath Resilience Action Team
Belfast Free Library
Bike BS (Biddeford / Saco)
Brooklin Climate Response Committee
Center for an Ecology-Based Economy
Chirp Creek Farm
Coastal Enterprises, Inc
Conservation Law Foundation
Defend Our Health
Distinctive Carpentry and Home Services
Drift Oceanside Inn
Ellen Mecray, Former NOAA Regional Climate
Services Director
Equinox Guiding Service
Freeport Climate Action Now
Friends of Casco Bay/CASCO Baykeeper
Glenvale LLC
Emilie Cram, Maine Registered Guide
ICSE Fund
Ironworkers Local 7
Katahdin Kitchen
Lovebirds Donuts
Luke's Lobster
Madeleine Point Oyster

Maine Audubon
Maine Center for Economic Policy
Maine Climate Action Now
Maine Community Power Cooperative
Maine Conservation Voters
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Environmental Education Association
Maine Labor Climate Council
Maine Medical Association
Maine Renewable Energy Association
Maine Service Employees Association,
SEIU Local 1989
Maine Women Hunters
Maine Women's Lobby
Maine Youth for Climate Justice
Natural Resources Council of Maine
Nature Based Education Consortium
PassivhausMAINE
Philip Conkling, PC & A
Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine
Planned Parenthood of Northern New England
Portland Climate Action Team
Portland Paddle
Resilient Communities, L3C
Sierra Club Maine
SubjectToClimate
Third Act Maine
York Ready for Climate Action