

Welcome

Dear Friends of Maine's Environment and Democracy,

Our time is a study in contrasts.

At this moment, we are celebrating a banner year for Maine's environment, climate, and democracy.

Together with Governor Janet Mills, the Maine Legislature passed significant policies that equitably tackle climate change, invest in healthy communities, protect our environment and democracy, and advance environmental justice.

Members and supporters like you — along with partners from across conservation, climate, public health, democracy, and social justice organizations — helped stop the practice of filling Maine's landfills with out-of-state waste; raised water quality standards for more than 800 miles of rivers and streams; encouraged investments in energy-efficient, affordable, and compact housing; invested in secure and accessible elections; and so much more. The story behind those victories includes your advocacy actions and the astounding number of Maine people who testified before the Legislature!

In the same moment, much of what we value is at risk. The intersecting problems of climate change, economic volatility, racial inequity, and the global pandemic – coupled with nationwide assaults on democratic institutions and the erosion of fundamental rights including voting rights – weigh heavily on all of us. These challenges threaten our collective efforts to create a healthier, safer, and more equitable future for *all* Maine people.

This year, 84 lawmakers scored 100% on Maine's Environmental Scorecard, earning the title of Conservation Champion. Unfortunately, five members of the House scored ZERO on the scorecard, voting against bills that protect our environment, democracy, and communities.

Holding these contradictory truths can be difficult; thank goodness we don't have to do it alone. Thanks to all of you, we have much to celebrate.

Thank you for standing with us as we face consequential threats, seize historic opportunities, and hold our elected officials accountable for their votes. Together, we are bending the arc toward justice and a thriving environment, climate, and democracy in Maine.

With hope and gratitude,



Maureen Drouin
Maureen Drouin
Executive Director



Jennifer Melville
Jennifer Melville
Board President