**To:** Interested Parties

**From:**

**Date:**

**Re:** Mainers Demand a Plan for Addressing Climate Change

From drought and extreme heat to flooding, hurricanes and sea level rise, communities across the country are feeling the impacts of climate change as a result of increased pollution. A growing number of Americans – including a majority of Republicans – are concerned with how climate change is impacting their health and communities and want the government to take action.

***The following information is provided to demonstrate how Mainers are impacted by climate change and how their elected leaders are approaching the crisis. We encourage you to report on how Mainers want Senator Collins to address the impact climate change is having in Maine and their opposition to coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to lead the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the agency charged with protecting public health and our environment.***

Support for climate action is growing, across all age groups, all religions, and all political persuasions. A [March poll](http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/publications/politics-global-warming-march-2018/2/) from climate change researchers at Yale and George Mason Universities found 87 percent of Democrats and **56 percent of Republicans** support bold climate action. Similarly, a [November AP-University of Chicago poll](http://www.apnorc.org/projects/Documents/EPIC%20fact%20sheet_v4_DTP.pdf?wpisrc=nl_energy202&wpmm=1) found 86 percent of Democrats, 70 percent of independents and **52 percent of Republicans** believe that climate change is happening now; and of those who believe climate change is happening *83 percent say the federal government should take steps to address climate change*. What’s more, a [December 2018 Fox News Poll](https://www.foxnews.com/politics/fox-news-poll-president-trump-ends-year-two-with-46-percent-job-approval) found that 64% of voters are concerned about climate change – up 7 points from January 2018 – **a boost mostly driven by a 13-point jump among Republicans.**

The threat of climate change is real for individuals and families across Maine. [More than 135,000 people](http://assets.statesatrisk.org/summaries/Maine_report.pdf) in Maine are living in flood prone areas, and if action isn’t taken, Maine’s coastal flood threat is projected to increase by 85 percent by 2050. Moreover, [according to the EPA](https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-me.pdf), Maine has warmed about three degrees (F) since the year 1900, and heat wave days are expected to quadruple annually by 2050. This not only puts vulnerable individuals at risk, but because of this rise in temperature, Maine’s fishing and agriculture sectors are beginning to [suffer.](https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-me.pdf) As ocean temperatures rise, fish species are moving northward or into deeper waters to remain within their normal temperature range. The loss of coastal wetlands could harm clams, bass, and other commercially important fish.

Mainers know that we need to act on climate and are already implementing local clean energy solutions to reduce climate-changing carbon pollution and boost their economies. **[INSERT LOCAL SOLUTIONS DATA FOR MAINE]**

Senator Collins needs to be taking her cues from state and local leaders and joining them in moving forward to reduce carbon pollution that’s contributing to climate change. In order to do that, Collins has to reject the nomination of former coal lobbyist Andrew Wheeler to lead the EPA, since he’s spent his tenure as acting administrator attempting to dismantle lifesaving climate and health protections. Wheeler and the other industry insiders nominated by President Trump are jeopardizing the Maine’s transition to a clean energy economy. Senator Collins knows that tackling the global climate crisis will create the 21st century jobs in communities across our country that fuel our economy. We already have created [3.2 million jobs nationally](https://www.e2.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Clean-Jobs-America-2018.pdf) as part of our transition to a clean energy economy and we can continue to build on that success, lifting up urban, suburban and rural communities.

It’s the responsibility of elected officials to meet the demands of their constituents, not bend to the will of the polluter allies in the Trump administration. We have the ability to solve the climate crisis if Senator Collins joins the momentum created by state and local leaders in Maine who are stepping up to meet the challenge of addressing climate change.

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