

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LD 1181, An Act To Create Jobs through Investment in Green Energy

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Senator Bartlett, Representative Martin and members of the Committee, my name is Marc Mutty, and I represent the Roman Catholic Bishop of Portland. I am here today to testify in support of LD 1181, An Act to Create Jobs through Investment in Green Energy.

When I first read this bill quickly, my thought was that this wasn't the kind of bill that the Diocese needed to speak to but the more I read and the more I reflected on it the more I came to the conclusion that indeed this is something we should way in on. Aside from the fact that this proposal makes good common sense by starting with conservation by insulating and retrofitting some the oldest and least efficient housing stock in the country, it has a number of other important features that are worthy of noting. This proposal has the ability to impact on the poor as well as the struggling lower middle class. Their homes, among the least insulated, would qualify for rehab grant and loan money. Additionally, it can be surmised that many of these individuals could well qualify for training and job placement in this "new" industry. This would appear to be a win win situation.

There is no doubt that the crafters of this bill were thinking and projecting on a large scale. It is a bold and innovative proposal but isn't that precisely what we need at this time and isn't it the kind of thinking that can attract federal stimulus money?

We urge you, the members of this committee, to seriously consider this proposal on its merits and make whatever amendments that are needed so that we can set about the business of insulating and retrofitting Maine's drafty housing stock.

