



GOVERNOR PAUL LEPAGE'S ANTI-ENVIRONMENTAL RECORD

Within days of coming into office, Gov. Paul LePage launched an unprecedented attack on Maine's landmark environmental safety and protection laws. His first bill (L.D. 1) proposed to:

- Weaken laws to limit use of toxics such as mercury, lead, arsenic and flame retardants in consumer products.
- Roll back a law that reduces sulfur dioxide air pollution.
- Eliminate Maine's "Kid-Safe Products Act" that phases out toxic chemicals in products used by children.
- Eliminate ban on toxic bisphenol-A (BPA) in baby bottles, water bottles, and sippy cups.
- Mandate at least three million acres of Maine's North Woods be zoned for development.
- Eliminate product stewardship laws, including the e-waste recycling law.
- Ease standards for development near vernal pools and other significant wildlife habitat.

In the 2012 legislative session, the Governor introduced or supported the following bills:

- The radical 'Takings' law would have stopped new environmental protection and land use laws by requiring taxpayers to pay developers to follow the laws or waive the laws altogether.
- Required Maine ratepayers to subsidize massive Canadian hydropower dams at the expense of Maine-produced renewable energy like solar and wind.
- Weakening highly successful energy efficiency program, Efficiency Maine Trust.

In 2013-2014, LePage:

- Blocked Statoil's \$120 million offshore wind project.
- Proposed weakening an important clean air standard on smog pollution from industrial sources.
- Reduced enforcement and even harassed DEP employees for doing their jobs.
- Politicized and reduced effectiveness of Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC).
- Eliminated the State Planning Office.
- Proposed reducing investments in energy efficiency.
- Eliminated state climate adaptation planning process and vetoed bill to restart it.
- Vetoed a bill requiring major food manufacturers to disclose their use of toxic BPA in the linings of cans and jars.
- Vetoed a bill requiring study of safety risks of pumping and transporting dirty tar sands oil through Maine.
- Vetoed the restoration of the Land and Water Resources Council.
- Supported private East-West Highway corridor across Maine.
- Proposed several times to weaken the state's Renewable Energy Standards.
- Proposed law to increase the amount of timber harvested on state-owned land.
- Vetoed bill to protect streams from toxic mining.
- Vetoed bill to protect Maine Lakes.
- Vetoed program to help schools buy food from Maine farmers.
- Vetoed Maine's solar rebate program.
- Vetoed bill to promote clean wind energy.
- Vetoed bill to increase right to know and state responsiveness to public records requests.

In addition, Gov. LePage has refused to replace DEP Commissioner Patti Aho after a Portland Press Herald investigative story documented that she "acted against a range of consumer protection, pollution reduction and climate preparedness laws she had previously tried but failed to stop from passing the Legislature as a lobbyist for chemical, drug, oil and automobile companies." The report also found that DEP employees "have been pressured not to vigorously implement or enforce these laws, which were long opposed by companies represented by the commissioner's former law firm."