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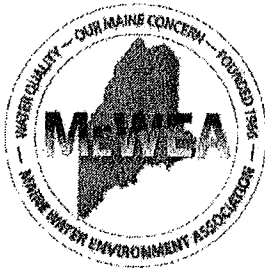
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Maine Water Environment Association

Local Government Center

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March 4, 2015

Representative Michael Devin
Senator Stan Gerzofsky
Committee on Marine Resources
100 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Subject: **LD 427 An Act To Address and Mitigate the Effects of Marine Debris**

Dear Representative Devin, Senator Gerzofsky and Co-Sponsors,

The Maine Water Environment Association (MEWEA) represents more than 600 members, including towns and sewer districts, which are on the front line of keeping the waters of Maine clean, in part through our diligent operation of sewer systems, including underground utilities. The mission of MEWEA is to promote professional environmental management practices to protect and improve the waters and related environments of the State of Maine. Consistent with this mission, the Association is testifying in favor of **LD 427, An Act To Address and Mitigate the Effects of Marine Debris**.

MEWEA is committed to working for the protection of Maine's marine environment for current and future generations. Earlier this year, MEWEA supported LD 85 which will ban the sale of personal care products and over the counter drugs containing plastic microbeads here in Maine.

While this legislation will not eliminate the problem of "plastic microdebris" targeted in LD 427, it is a major step forward to protect Maine's marine environment. LD 85 is on its way to passage with support from Maine DEP and unanimous approval by the Environmental and Natural Resource Committee.

LD 427 proposes to enact measures to address and mitigate plastic pollution in the marine environment. This proposal could very well include a host of sources and causes of plastic pollutants, none of which as yet are cited. MEWEA supports the concept of reducing and eliminating these causes, and would welcome an opportunity to participate in or comment on further discussions or proposals going forward on this matter.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 207-846-2415 or tconnolly@yarmouth.me.us if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Tom Connolly
2015 President, MEWEA