

Tamra Benson  
Orono  
LD 928

My name is Tamra Benson and I am a fourth-year student at the University of Maine. I am writing as a student, activist, and, concerned citizen, to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 928.

I am a firm believer that we are here to heal each other. As a collective, I believe that we are here to honor our relationship and responsibility to the land and each other, to minimize suffering and maximize authentic joy, and to work for the collective healing and liberation of the planet and the ecosystems and people that inhabit it.

The Pine Tree Amendment will encourage sustainable and forward-thinking development, industry, and business growth, and create a robust legal pathway for protecting Maine's ecosystems. This issue is essential to Mainers and the PTA has the capacity to make a significant impact in protecting Maine’s environment. It will also incentivize government officials to make decisions that will accomplish economic and business objectives while also protecting water, air, soils, food, forests, wetlands, climate, and other natural resources. Our environment is critical to sustaining healthy, safe, and successful lives and economies, and Maine’s constitution should reflect that fact.

All people in Maine deserve the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment, and they deserve it now. This is truly the bare minimum in terms of what people in Maine should have for rights, and yet these rights are not stated or protected by Maine’s Constitution. The Pine Tree Amendment would change that, ensuring that these constitutionally protected rights are upheld by Maine state and local governments.

The Pine Tree Amendment is a powerful way to honor our relationship and responsibility to the land and each other, to minimize suffering and maximize authentic joy, and to work for the collective healing and liberation of people and the planet.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tamra Benson