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03/13/2022

To: Senator Stacy Brenner, Representative Lori Gramlich, and Honorable members of the committee
From: Isabelle Kostelnick
Re: Testimony in Support of the Pine Tree Amendment, LD: 928

My name is Isabelle Kostelnick and I live and go to school in Orono, Maine.
I am writing as a student and concerned citizen to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 928.

Originally from Illinois, I knew very quickly when choosing schools that I wanted to get out. I was raised in the central part of the state, where farmland was plentiful, as were environmental issues. Groundwater often contained high levels of contaminants, forcing boil orders and no-drinking bans. Climate change impacted crop patterns, causing food scarcity and low crop sales. Winters became so cold that there were weeks where school was canceled due to inhabitable wind chill, and the local news encouraged people not to leave their homes for fear of immediate frostbite. When I determined I wanted to study environmental science, my first instinct was to reflect on my travels. Maine was beautiful; full of life, tall trees, and miles of beautiful coastlines. From my perspective, it was the perfect place to go to learn about the environment and simultaneously have power in protecting it. Since being here for even a mere two years, I have seen a lot of changes. Lobster migration patterns are changing due to rising sea temperatures, posing a threat to the lobster industry, a true cornerstone here in Maine. The gulf of Maine is warming 99% faster than any other part of the world’s oceans due to anthropocentric consequences. The state has experienced eight inches of sea level rise, and is expected to see another eighteen inches before the year 2050, which would increase flooding risk by over 15 times.

- **Mainers are entitled to clean air and clean water**
- Climate change is and will continue to have adverse effects on the state of Maine.
- Preserving the right to clean air and drinking water is the first step in mitigating these consequences.
- I, along with many others, came to Maine for its natural beauty. This drawing factor must be protected.

The reason I came to Maine was to escape a dying climate. This beautiful state, known for its mountains, forests, beaches, and coasts, is one of few in the nation with such natural grandeur. In order to protect these assets for ourselves and future generations, we must take direct action in preserving them. No Mainer should have to question their right or access to breathing clean air or drinking clean water.

Respectfully submitted,
Isabelle Kostelnick

Isabelle Kostelnick
Orono
LD 928

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