

Linda Woods
Waterville
LD 928

March 16, 2023

To: Senator Stacy Brenner, Representative Lori Gramlich, and Honorable members of the committee

From: Linda Woods

Re: Testimony in Support of LD 928, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment

My name is Linda Woods, and I live in Waterville. I am writing as an activist and retired teacher to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 928.

Maine: “Vacationland,” an iconic tagline that promotes the value of Maine’s outdoor heritage. Our identity is about our outdoors, our woods and our waters. People enjoy our seasonal activities like hiking, hunting, fishing, skiing, and snowmobiling.

Current Maine residents need to do what we can to protect these important resources for ourselves and our guests as well as for those in the future. That is why I support LD 928, “An Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment.” The Pine Tree Amendment to Maine’s Constitution protects Maine’s clean and healthy environment and preserves the natural, cultural, recreational and scenic qualities that define our brand. It is important that these resources be protected with the same legal strength as other political, civil, property and human rights.

Maine people want this Pine Tree Amendment. We understand the importance of a livable future where we all can thrive. Every time a Land for Maine’s Future Bill has been on the ballot, it has passed. We want our waters to be clean and our land to be available for various forms of recreation. The Pine Tree Amendment would ensure protection of current public lands and increase the likelihood of adding more in the future.

I have dedicated most of my life to being a voice for the environment. If the Pine Tree Amendment is added to Maine’s Constitution, the work done by dedicated preservationists would be protected from future decisions by subsequent governors or legislators with differing opinions. I could rest easier knowing a healthy environment with multiple opportunities for outside recreation has been protected. That is why I support LD 489, the Pine Tree Amendment. It will transform the way we think about our future by protecting our way of life. Ah, Maine, “the way life should be.”

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Woods