

# Maine Climate Action **NOW!**

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

From: Amy Eshoo, Maine Climate Action Now

Date: March 20, 2023

Re: LD 928, a Resolution Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment OUGHT TO PASS

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich, and Honorable members of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, my name is Amy Eshoo. I am a resident of North Yarmouth and Director of Maine Climate Action Now (MCAN), a statewide coalition of grassroots organizations who support transformative action in response to the climate crisis. We hold social, racial, and economic justice as critical to the transition to zero carbon emissions by 2030 and demand the equitable implementation of clean renewable energy, ecological land-use practices, and bold community-led action for a more resilient Maine.

In our coalition's work we see protecting the rights of both the natural world and of future generations as vital to climate justice. We support systemic change in order to bring us all to a just and equitable future. LD 928 would bring protections to our natural resources for all the people of Maine. We know that we have not done so in the past and can see the wide rippling effects of such neglect: for example in the PFAS contamination that we must all face in our land, water, bodies, food and animals.

Our right to a clean and healthy environment is fundamental and should be enshrined in our state Constitution permanently.

The Pine Tree Amendment ensures that our lawmakers will consider environmental impacts in any lawmaking. It will ensure that all the good work that has been done here in Maine on behalf of the environment will not be rolled back by a future administration or legislature.

As a justice organization we believe that the Pine Tree Amendment will strengthen environmental justice by protecting all communities equitably regardless of race, ethnicity or income to have the same rights to clean water and air and healthy environments.

Protecting the health of our waters, air, land and wildlife is essential to our future well-being and that of generations to come. MCAN urges you to vote OUGHT TO PASS for LD 928.

Amy Eshoo  
Maine Climate Action Now  
LD 928

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