

Nola Meek
Portland
LD 928

Wednesday March 20, 2023

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

From: Nola Meek

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 Nola Meek. I live in the city of Portland and I am writing as a student, activist, and concerned citizen to urge you to vote “ought to pass” on LD 928.

I am from a family that values our time outdoors and the lesson we can learn from nature and our environment. As I have grown up I find my values aligning more and more with the integrity and lessons I have learned from spending my childhood in the outdoors. It is my hope that the generations after me will also be able to take school trips to their local mountain or park and that they will not be burdened with the threat of an unclean or unhealthy environment.

No person in Maine today, or for generations to come, should question their right to a clean and healthy environment.

Environmental justice is a topic that will affect everyone and the Pine Tree Amendment strengthens the right to clean water, air, and healthy environments regardless of one's race, ethnicity, or income. The PTA also ensures that it is the duty of all government officials to protect all communities equitably.

In Maine part of our identity and how we are defined is by our extraordinary environment.

People from all walks of life enjoy the outdoors and all Mainers deserve the right and ability to continue enjoying the outdoors for many more generations.

The Pine Tree Amendment is essential because it will provide guidance for our government to ensure its decision-making considers environmental impacts early in the process when prevention of pollution, degradation, and environmental harm is most possible.

I urge you to pass LD 928 not only for our current generation and their benefit, but also for all future generations and to preserve Maine's unique environment.

Respectfully submitted,
Nola Meek